THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

REGISTERED No. 48.

PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY.

VOLUME XXIII.
NUMBER 18.

CALCUTTA:—MONDAY, MAY 1, 1876.

Per Annum in Advance.
TOWN.....11-8.
MOFUSSIL .....13-4.

THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 24TH APRIL.

THERE WERE applications to Lord Lytton from two more public bodies soliciting permission to wait on his Lordship with addresses of welcome, viz., the Dharma Ruks hini Sabha, and the Family Literary Club. We have received the addresses of these two bodies, and the replies thereto. We can make room only for the rep lies, which we give below:

Reply to the Dharma Sabha.

Mr. President, Vice-President and Members of Sanatana Dharma Rukshini Sabha.—

It has given me much pleasure to receive your words of welcome to Calcutta. I thank you for the expression of your good wishes.

I am fully conscious of the responsible nature of the great trust which my August Sovereign has placed in my hands, and it will be the earnest desire of my administration to encourage the peaceful industry of the country, to administer the Government for the good of all creeds and classes, and to maintain that strict regard to religious neutrality and toleration which, as you observe, has formed one of the leading principles of the British rule in India.

I fully reciprocate the kind sentiments which you express in your address, and will only add that it is to such public bodies as yours that the Government look for a proper appreciation on the part of the masses of India of the acts and intentions of their rule.

Lytton.

Reply to the Family Literary Club.

Mr. President, Vice-President, and Members of the Burra Bazar Literary Club,—

I thank you for your congratulations on my assumption of the office of Viceroy and Governor-General.

The objects of your society are such as to merit encouragement, and you may rely on my sympathy in your philanthropic efforts.

I pray that the blessings of peace, contentment, and prosperity may continue among the people of this land, and that the education of the masses may ever form the landmark of British rule in India.

LYTTON

WE INADVERTENTLY omitted to mention last week that the Government of Bengal on a representation from the Director of Public Instruction has directed that in all communications in which the name of Raja Showrendromohun Tagore may be used or which may be addressed to him, the title of Doctor of Music, which has been conferred upon him by the University of Philadelphia should be used. This is a graceful recognition of the services which he has rendered to the cause of the revival of Indian Music.

ACCORDING to a contemporary Lord Stanley of Alderley has given notice of his intention to ask Lord Salisbury, on a day not fixed, if he will move the Civil Service Commissioners to redistribute the marks given at the examination for Indian appointments, so as to notify that Sanskrit, Arabic, or Persian are more important than German and Italian for Indian civil servants; and to ask him to take into consideration the expediency of making one of those three Eastern classical languages obligatory on probationers before proceeding to India.

THE FOLLOWING resolutions were passed at a special meeting of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce held on March 29, to consider the debate in the House of Lords on the 14th idem, on the Indian Import Duties on Cotton Goods:

"The members of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce have read with great satisfaction the despatches of the Secretary of State for India to the Government of India at Calcutta on the subject of the duties now levied on cotton goods imported into India, showing, as those despatches do most conclusively, that the maintenance of the duties is opposed alike to the best interests of the people of India and to the principles of free-trade, which have been uncompromisingly adopted by England, and that the members of the Chamber, on behalf of the manufacturing and commercial community of this district, desire to record their sense of the soundness of the policy so ably adopted by the Secretary of State for India."

Lord Salisbury doubtless feels grateful to Manchester for this vote of confidence.

ON A CONSIDERATOIN of the whole Eurasian question, the *Pioneer* does not see that the class labours under any disabilities which legislation could remove. They have the fullest access to schools, colleges, and institutions of every kind, and, when really trustworthy, find no difficulty in obtaining employment. On the contrary they have the greater preference in public offices, as to their social disabilities, the position rests with the individual seeking it, rather than with the public who are asked to confer it. Our contemporary says that "society must be won to new views of equality, and is not likely to be coerced into them by reproaches,"

THE BOMBAY GAZETTE points out that the guiding spirit of the late administration was Lord Northbrook's scrupulous anxiety to protect the interests of the tax-payer. He laid it down as a fixed rule that the amount to be borrowed annually for reproductive public works should not exceed a sum the interest on which could be paid without increase of taxation; and he "resolutely set his face against the policy of developing the resources of the country by borrowing money to spend on works which held out no certain prospect of an immediate return to meet interest on capital." By these means, and by economy in other departments, he was enabled to reduce taxation to the extent of a million a year, repealing duties on important articles of India's export trade, and thus giving a marked impetus to commerce.

THE PARIS CORRESPONDENT of the *Englishman* notices a distinguishing feature in the domestic economy of Jewish ladies. He writes:

"The Millionaire Jewess grudges no money spent on jewellery which she can always sell for what it cost. But she recoils from running up a bill with a washerwoman. The laundress in this country (France) is, I may add as an extenuating circumstance, more ruinous than a moneylender taking cent per cent. She charges ridiculously high prices, and she destroys the clothing she undertakes to wash, and make up. Rothschild's co-religionists in Paris, have a marcantile appreciation of this fact, and keep as far as health allows out of her hands."

This with a people, whose scripture preaches cleanliness as next to godliness.

TUESDAY, 25TH APRIL.

IT IS said that Queen Victoria's visit to Germany is thought to be occasioned by the state of the Czar's health. She is to confer, in a few days, in Lord Derby's presence, with the Emperor of Germany, on the European and Asiatic complications, to which the approaching ascent of the Cæsarawitch to the Regency, or to the Imperial Throne, will probably give rise.

THE SAME CORRESPONDENT, whom we quote above, writes the following:

"Alexander finds the Sclavonian or Russian party too strong for him. He is pressed by it to break pledges which he has freely made to England and Germany. If he keep his word, he will have the nation against him; if he break it, a war is certain with his powerful neighbour. Philanthropic, and a man of honour, his feelings urge him to disregard the remonstrances and counsels of "Young Russia." He is no longer on speaking terms with his heir, and he is agitated by a fear of being strangled by the Cæsarewitch's partisans. Alexander sleeps with loaded pistols at his bed side. It is reported in Russian circles here, that not long ago after a restless night he fell asleep at the hour when he had arranged to pass some troops in review. An Aide-de Camp coming in to attend him suddenly awoke the Czar, who, not recognising him, seized a revolver, fired at him, and shot him dead. The Duchess of Edinburgh has gone back to St. Petersburgh to try and soothe her father. She has purchased a villa on the Lie dela Croix of M. Grumoff for 3,000000*f*; to which her household effects will be transported from London. The Grand Duchess Marie is the only daughter of the Czar and Czarina, and their favorite child. Her company is a great solace to their Majesties in this period of agitation and mental agony. The death of the Grand Duchess Mary Nicolaewitch gave a rude shock to the Emperor Alexander's nerves. When he went to bid her a last farewell, she said to him: "My brother, we shall soon meet. No member of our house ever survived his sixtieth year. I pray that you may break the spell. But I have a presentiment that you will not go and that you will not die a natural death." If the Cæsarawitch party gain the upper hand, war will be the consequence. There are signs that England and Germany are inclined to coalesce against Russia. The Duke of Edinburgh is determined to prove himself a true born Briton in the event of a quarrel between his country and his wife's. He has demanded a post of danger, and rather than expose himself to being taxed with Russian sympathies, has separated from the Duchess and his children.

All this points to a dark political horizon in Europe.

GOOD WINE, according to Shakespear, is a good familiar creature, if it be well used. Invalids condemned to drink ferruginous waters will be glad to learn that, according to M. Leon Perier, a distinguished authority, claret is extremely rich in iron, and that a glass of good Bordeaux is equal to half a pint of the best mineral water. It is to the tartrate of iron that the wines of Bordeaux chiefly owe their reputation for fortifying children, strengthening convalescents, and supporting the aged.

MUNICIPAL JOBBERY is not confined to Calcutta. A Bombay paper denounces as a job the appointment of a certain party as agent in England to test water-pipes, on a commission of 2½ per cent, equal to Rs. 40,000 for the job. Our contemporary points out, by way of contrast, that the agent or engineer who passes *all* the *materiel* for the chief line of railway, receives about Rs. 6,000 per month.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY of Paris has conferred its gold medal upon Dr. Nachtigal, the African explorer, and at the same time invited him to receive it in person at Paris, at an extraordinary sitting which was to be held on the 19th instant. Dr. Nachtigal has accepted the invitation. The compliment paid to the German explorer is much commented upon in Berlin, and noted with satisfaction as an indication that the jealous feeling which has prevailed since the war is wearing off.

WITH REFERENCE to the annexation of the Khanate of Khokand the *Daily Review* of *Edinburgh* says:

"What Peter the Great began in 1722, and Nicholas nearly accomplished in 1847, Alexander II, has completed in 1876. An area of 4,000 geographical miles, and a population almost equal to that of Scotland, has been formally added to the Russian Empire.

Every advanced point occupied by the Czar is a base for a farther advance. The Russian dominion in Asia now consists of the following provinces and populations which run right up to the southern frontier of our three buffers, Persia, Afghanistan, and Kashgaria. We append the latest return of the military forces also, that our readers may see for themselves the conditions of the political question between Russia and Great Britain in the East:—

	Population.	Troops. Officers.	Peace Estab.
Lieutenancy of the Caucasus	4,893,332	4,927	220,829
Siberia	3,428,867	1,050	34,300
Toorkistan	3,307,952		
Add Ferghana	3,000,000		

A NATIVE REGENCY has been appointed at Puttiala. The *Pioneer* says that it seems unlikely that there will be any European Superintendent appointed, nor will there, for the present, be any ceremony of installation.

WEDNESDAY, 26TH APRIL.

THE PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION of Dacca have submitted a petition to the Bengal Council regarding the Agrarian Disputes Bill. They have come after the fair as the Bill has been passed. There are some important suggestions in the petition, which we give below:

"It is a fact which stares us broadly in the face that the number of suits instituted simply for realizing arrears of rents is almost apalling and most of them are for so inconsiderable amounts that they hardly worth the useless expense of a law suit. At the same time it is undeniable that both parties suffer so heavily by the ultimate result of such cases! The ryot has to pay the legitimate account of rent and double or seven far more than that for the cost &c. of the suit and the Zemindar also far from being a gainer is at the end a hard loser. While taking this view of the subject we beg to notice that the difficulty which a Zemindar meets with in realizing his rents is immense. The ryots are found passively to resist payment notwithstanding repeated demands on the part of the Zemindar and the only course left to him is to seek for assistance in the Civil Court which he often does most reluctantly. As in the case of ryots the difficulty of realization is also felt in the case of petty Howladars and Talookdars scattered over all parts of Eastern Bengal. The Zemindar knows no remedy whatever against such state of things. It is therefore advisable that some sort of check should be provided against such conduct on the part of the ryots. The penalty of a sale which works so well for the due and punctual realizing of the arrears of Government revenue and tend to the good and well-being of the Zemindar and the Government instead of working ruinously and cruelly as may seem, should also, we venture to suggest, be attached to the case of nonpayment of arrears of rent without any just reason, by any occupancy ryot or tenure holder and in order to prevent abuse, the declaration of a sale should be left to the adjudication of the Civil Court in a suit for nonpayment of arrears if it finds that the rents have been withheld without any sufficient cause.

In the second place your Memorialists are glad to observe that as submitted by them in their first Memorial, your Honour has seen the necessity of laying down some rules for the guidance of the Collector in cases of adjustment of rents. But the alternative rules that have been adopted for the purpose at the motion of the learned Advocate General, leave the Collector too wide a discretion. It would be quite perplexing both to the Collector and to the outside public to determine and to know under what rule he would act. It would be better therefore to lay down one among those rules for the adjustment rules as a definite one. The rule of proportion is admittedly vague and not workable and so the second and the third rule would be a safe rule for the adjustment of rents.'

BY THE TREATY made between Japan and Corea the latter is for the future to be considered independent of Japan. On the other hand, the chief ports are to be open without any restrictions to the Japanese, who are also to have rights in courts of law equal in all respects with the Coreans.

A COMPLICATION that threatens Portugal with a war has suddenly developed in China. The settlement of Macao, which for two hundred years has been considered by the Potugues to belong to them, and tacitly admitted by the Chinese to be the property of the foreigners, has now been claimed by the

Pekin Government, and this in language that allows of no doubt as to its meaning. The treaty upon which Portugal claims Macao has, strangely enough, never been formally ratified, and China has now taken advantage of the neglect to deny flatly the right of the Braganza to an inch of territory.

THE CALCUTTA CORRESPONDENT of the *Pioneer* has the following about the new Viceroy :

"Before Sunday was well over, Lord Northbrook was nearly forgotten. All the gossip in Calcutta was about the new Viceroy. My conjecture that the son of the novelist was the embodiment of one of his illustrious father's most popular characters, has been borne out by further facts. Lord Lytton is Henry Pelham in India. He says exactly what Pelham would have said. He is enchanted with the country ; he does not mind the heat ; and he certainly has been in no hurry to run away to Simla. Possibly we may hear that His Excellency has shivered under a Calcutta sun just as Pelham joined Brummel in shivering beneath the summer's sun at Calais and made up a blazing fire. Meantime, His Lordship is exhibiting an energy which is surprising in a diplomatist ; he is also combining it with unusual politeness. He is said to have called personally on the Members of Council ; to have written friendly notes with his own hand ; and to have made himself generally agreeable to all comers."

THE TOTAL number of horses in Great Britain on the 25th June 1875, was, according to recently published returns, 1,340,129 against 1,311,739 on the corresponding date of the previous year. Of cattle there were in 1875, 6,012,824 against 6,125,491 ; of sheep there were 29,166,139 against 30,313,941 ; and of pigs there were 2.292,918, against 2,422,832. In Scotland there were 183,642 horses against 180.818 in 1874 ; of cattle there were 1,143,080, against 1,154,846 : of sheep, 7,100,994, against 7,389,487 ; and of pigs there were 151,213, against 150,297.

ON THE 2nd ultimo Russia celebrated the 21st Anniversary of Alexander II.'s accession. The new reign found a new debt of two milliards, the Budget was only 200,000,000 roubles, there were only 974 kilometres of railways, the river navigation had 144 steamers, the people were in serfdom and had no right or real property, there was no popular education, justice was administrative. To-day justice has undergone liberal reforms including the introduction of juries and barristers ; there are 22,000 elementary schools ; the people have been enfranchised, are endowed with property, and have the right of voting ; 18,414 kilometres of railways are at work, and 2,079 are being constructed ; there are 700 packets and 2,500 merchant vessels ; the Budget is 570,000,000 roubles. The purchase of the property given to the freed peasants has cost 500,000,000 roubles and the railways 550,000,000.

ON THE 20th of March last, a Native General Court Martial was assembled at Poona for the trial of Trooper Ram Pursad, of the 1st Regiment of Light Cavalry, who was charged with having, on or about the 28th day of May 1857, at the mutiny of the Bengal troops at Nusseerabad, "shamefully abandoned the garrison of that station which it was his duty to defend." So after going free for nineteen years, Trooper Ram Pursad finds that he is by no means forgotten, and is brought to trial. He was found guilty and sentenced to death. This sentence has however been commuted to transportation for fifteen years. Perhaps this sentence will cover the whole period of his life.

THURSDAY, 27TH APRIL.

THE WEATHER has for some weeks past assumed an alarming aspect and much fear is entertained regarding the health of the people and the prospects of the crops. A review of the state of the weather and the prospects of the crops all over the country does not hold out much assurance as yet for the future. There has been no rain in Burdwan, Bankoora, Beerbhoom, Howrah, 24 Pergunnahs, Jessore, Chittagong, Patna, Shahabad, Durbhanga, Champarun, Pooree, Lohardugga, Singbhoom, Maunbhoom, and Hazareebagh, and cholera in more or less virulent form is prevalent in these districts. There were slight showers in Hooghly, Nuddea, Morshedabad, Dinagpore, Malda, Rungpore, Rajshye, Bogra, Pubna, Darjeeling, Julpigoree, Cooch Behar, Dacca, Fureedpore, Mymensing, Tepperah, Chittagong, Noakhally, Mozufferpore, Sarun, Champarun, Monghyr, Bhaugulpore, Purneah, Sonthal Perguna, and Cuttuck ; of the last named districts, Pubna, Darjeeling, Dacca. Furreedpore, Mymensing, Tipperah, Chittagong Hill tracts, Monghyr, Bhaugulpore and Balasore have been specially favored, as the rains in most of these districts were copious, with scarcely any sickness, and cultivation is in fair progress. It is said that the mangoe crop in Monghyr has been the best for the last twenty years.

AN ALLAHABAD Correspondent again notices the hardship experienced by native passengers of the East Indian Railway, who perform long journeys from want of refreshment rooms on the way. The hardship referred to is especially felt in these dry days, and there is great grumbling among the native passengers of the Railway—we commend this matter to the attention of the Railway authorities.

A LEGAL correspondent from the N. W. P. raises the question of the right of the present holder of a Currency note as against the original owner who lost it or from whom it was stolen. He says that Section 108 of the Contract Act of 1872 ruling that no seller can give to the buyer of goods a better title to these goods than he has himself has much shaken the public faith in the currency on the score of doubtful right, and recommends that the law regarding these notes should be so altered as to make the position of the holder similar to that of a holder in England.

A CORRESPONDENT from Malipotah describes the following phenomenon. As some cultivators were engaged in their work they observed a water-spout descending from the heavens to the spot where they were at work. They fled through fear and observed the phenomenon from a distance. It seemed to them that as soon as the spout touched the ground, there was a violent whirlwind attended with a loud report. It did much damage to property but there was no loss of life. What is strange, say they, is that when they returned to the spot their implements of husbandry were all gone. This occurred in the village of Dwardhar in the Ranaghat Sub-division.

A CORRESPONDENT from Deoghar writes that more than half of the town was destroyed by fire at midday on the 24th instant.

WITH REFERENCE to the case of robbery at the Khajrah Railway Station noticed in our last we have received a contradiction to the effect that the party robbed was the station jemadar, whose wife was ill-treated by the miscreants.

A COOCH BEHAR Correspondent informs us that Babu Jadukchunder Chuckerbutty, an officer of the Cooch Behar State, will shortly start on a mission of bride-hunting for the young Raja of Cooch Behar. He will visit Calcutta and the North Western Provinces for the purpose.

THE SAME CORRESPONDENT mentions, fracas between Lieut. Col. Clerk, Assistant Engineer attached to the Behar Survey Division party No. 2 and Mr. Weeden, Executive Engineer. Three civil cases have been filed against the latter by his subordinates.

THE DEATH-RETURN of Calcutta for the week ending the 15th instant gives the total number of deaths at 248. There were 58 deaths from cholera and 4 from small-pox. The return for the week ending the 22nd idem shews an increase of deaths from 248 to 282. Deaths from cholera were 65 and from small-pox 7.

ALLAHABAD must be a curious place to live in. A person seems to be not at liberty to play music there after a certain hour without the permission of the Police. There was Brahma Music in the house of a Native gentleman, and he was hauled up by the Police for breach of law !

FRIDAY, 28TH APRIL.

THE INDIAN CHARIVARI has honored our esteemed townsman Mr. Manockjee Rustomji with an album portrait. The likeness is good and the letter-press complimentary. We have much pleasure in reproducing Buck's notice :

"There is perhaps, hardly a European merchant at present in business in Calcutta, who can recollect when the firm of Rustumjee Cowasjee & Co. was a mercantile power in this city, especially as regards the China trade. But the principal directing mind of that once well known firm which suffered, like so many others, from the collapse of the Union Bank, still exists amongst us in the well-known body of the subject of our sketch, and time seems to have made but little impression on either his body or mind. He would still be as ready as he was in the China war, and in 1857, to place his resources at the service of Government; has still the same open hand for the relief of private distress, as he had in the days of his greater posperity; still acts the part of peacemaker in the private disputes of his friends, and is still esteemed and respected by all those who have the privilege of knowing him. He asks for no recognition of his services to Government, but in 1874 he was selected by the Chief Justice as Sheriff o Calcutta, an honour never before that time conferred upon any native gentleman. He is a Justice of the Peace and Honorary Magistrate for Calcutta, and a Municipal Commissioner for the suburbs, and takes his fair share of work in such capacities. He remains one of the few connecting links between Calcutta as it is and as it was, and we hope that he may long be spared to give us the benefit of his experience."

THE STATESMAN gives an entertaining extract from *Max Havelaar*, a Dutch work, on the change of Viceroys, from which we take the following :

"As a general history of the malady of the situation of the Governors-General, I believe that I can give:—*First period*—dizziness, incense-drunkenness, self-conceit, immoderate self-confidence, disdain of others, above all of persons who have been long in India. *Second period*—fatigue, fear, dejection to sleep and rest, immoderate confidence in the Council of India, home-sickness, and desire for a Dutch country seat. Between these two periods, and as a sort of transition, perhaps as cause of this transition there is dysentery.

I trust that many persons in India will thank me for this diagnosis.'

We do not believe that dysentery necessarily follows.

THE PIONEER has the following :

"Anglo-Indian newspapers have a curious habit of indentifying themselves with the European section of their readers, and so, by implication, with the British nation. You can hardly take up one of these journals without reading of "*our* native army," "*our* Indian subjects," and so on; as if the editors kept a native army or an eastern kingdom on the press premises The sooner this custom is dropped the better for the influence of Indian journalism. We do not deny that we fall into it ourselves sometimes: but it is wrong and stupid all the same. The more the press of this country speaks with the common voice of India, the more attention will it win.

The Allahabad journal forgets that the Anglo-Indian writers belong to the conquering nation !

THE PROBLEM of mass education in Oudh has curiously enough brought to light the condition of the people of that province Munshi Durgapersad, Inspector of Schools, Western Circle, says : "The lower classes that constitute the great bulk of the Hindi-speaking community are exceedingly poor. Never at any former period were they in a worse condition. The main difficulty now is, that the earnings of our school-going children are necessary for the support of the family." Mr. Thompson, Inspector, Eastern Circle, writes that a laborer in Oudh by sending his son to school would incur a loss of 30 per cent of his income . . . not 30 per cent. which could otherwise be saved, but 30 per cent of what is necessary to preserve himself, children, and aged relatives from perishing by hunger.

THE RAST-GOFTAR does not seem to be satisfied with the programme of the late Bombay meeting in respect of the Revenue Jurisdiction Act. Our contemporary writes :

"When, for instance, our rising young barrister, Mr. Kashinath Telang, rose to speak, the audience, fatigued probably by *long detention, had fairly reached the somnolent stage. Even* in the speeches of the Hon'ble the Rao Saheb and Javerilal Oomiashunker, excellent as they were, there was a lack of spirit and energy which made them fall flat on the public ear. No representative of the Parsee community was included among the speech-makers, and in fact, the part taken by those of them who were present was confined to the merely mechanical performance of seconding and supporting resolutions.

We fear nothing can prevent such heart-burning. Of course we know nothing about the arrangements made, but why should the seconders and supporters have performed the "mechanical part" alluded to ? They could have spoken as others did.

WE ARE glad to learn that His Highness the Maharaja of Holkar contemplates the establishment of an Eton for the education of the sons of the neighbouring native princes.

THE VANITY FAIR'S writer of Town gossip hears that the principal reason, which has impelled the Queen to go abroad is, that Her Majesty finds it necessary to have a personal interview with the German Emperor in order to bring to a conclusion a bargain over which there has already been much wrangling. This bargain relates to the Duke of Edinburgh's reversionary interest in the Duchy of Saxe-Coburg Gotha, for which it seems the Duke is willing to deal. Prince Bismarck has offered a million sterling down, in addition to perpetual annual charge on the Duchy of sixty thousand pounds ; but the Queen dislikes this arrangement, and asks instead for three millions ready money down and no yearly charge.

SATURDAY, 29TH APRIL.

THE BENGALEE hears that Mrs. Mon Mohini Wheeler, daughter of the Rev. Dr. K. M. Banerjee, has been appointed an Inspectress of Girls' School in Calcutta, the 24-Pergunnahs and Hooghly. Her special mission will, we are told, be to furnish information to Government preparatory to the introduction of system of payment by results.

SIR RICHARD TEMPLE gave a farewell Rhotas party for the season on Tuesday last. The party numbered about 150 persons. There were refreshments for both the Hindus and Mahomedans, and His Honor was as usual kind to all his guests. The party enjoyed the trip exceedingly.

THE FRIEND OF INDIA says :

"As to the comparative advantages of British and Native rule in this country, there is room for the gravest misgiving on the subject. In some instances, there is no doubt at all that the people were indefinitely better off under their own institutions than they would be under ours Travancore is a very striking instance of this. This little State contains but a population of about 1¼ millions, and yet contrives to export 83 lakhs of goods a year (1871-72) and to import 100 lakhs. Let the reader look at the following comparison :—

	Imports.	*Exports.*
British India	4*s.* 6*d.*,	6*s.*
Travancore	13*s.*	12*s.*

There are no home charges to bear ; no public debt to weigh down the industry of the people ; and no highly paid civilians to swallow up their resources. Out of a gross revenue of Rs. 55,00,000, the little State devotes nearly one-fourth to public works ; pays us a subsidy of one-seventh, or eight lakhs ; and devotes about nine lakhs to religious, charitable, and educational uses. The expenses of the palace are most modest, and the little kingdom is an Eden compared with Oudh, the Central Provinces, the Deccan, or the North-West. Reflect for a moment upon an expenditure of *one fourth* of the revenue, on public works; almost the whole being devoted to original works. The little State is never in debt. It does not hoard, but keeps a steady cash balance of about £500,000 in its treasury. The truth is and we may not conceal it from our

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readers—*that the longer we live in the country the* more doubtful do we become of the "blessings" of British rule, except in one respect;—Our rule preserves the people from foreign aggression, and internal commotion, and civil war. The boon is enormous, but the people pay very dearly for it. We cannot give up the rule of India, even if we would. We are here and must stay here; but should that fact prevent our being just to the people? Does it really require us to make them pay our debts, and exclude them from all positions of influence and emolument in their own country?

THE EAST says that Government has under consideration a proposal for authorizing native police officers to act as inspectors of schools within their respective districts. The thief catcher to be the educator—what next and next?

THE NEW DOOMESDAY BOOK is said to be wholly unreliable. Mr. P. Colquhoun writes to the *Times*: "Every mistake it was possible to make has been made. The names of the proprietors are wrong the addresses wrong, the quantities wrong, and the valuation wrong; and four wrongs do not make a right." This is sharp.

RANEE RUCKMABAE of Baroda has followed up her visit to Lord Northbrook by one to the new Governor General. On Saturday last Her Highness had an interview at Government House with Lord Lytton and submitted a petition, in which her grievances were duly set forth, and an impartial enquiry into them demanded. His Lordship promised a full investigation, and assured her that she might rely upon justice being done.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London 25th April.—On Mr. Disraeli declining in the House of Commons last night to afford Mr. Fawcett facilities for discussing his motion on the Royal Titles' Bill, Mr Fawcett announced a resolution censuring the advice given by the Premier to Her Majesty the Queen to assume the title of Empress of India.

25th—In the House of Commons this evening on Mr Distraeli again refusing to afford Mr Fawcett the facilities he seeks, the latter leaves his resolution on the notice paper

London, 25th April,—In answer to a question of Sir George Balfour in the House of Commons last night Lord George Hamilton said that Lord Northbrook's despatch of November last to the Secretary of State for India concerning the Indian Tariff Act had just been received The Marquis of Salisbury's rejoinder was under consideration, and as soon as it was made papers would be laid before the House

Vienna 20th April—The Turks officially admit that an attempt to revictual Niksich has proved a failure six days' fighting against 11,000 insurgents, the majity of them being Montenegrins.

21st—It is doubted if the assertion of the Turks is correct as to whether 7,000 of the Prince of Montenegro's troops aided the insurgents in the last six days' fighting.

Vienna, 24thApril—An address has been sent from the insurgents to the Great Powers expressing readiness to submit obedience to the Porte if Count Andrassy's scheme of reforms is loyally executed with the guarantees, they the insurgents demand. The Porte in an interview with Sir George Elliott and General Ignatieff the British and Russian Ambassadors, declared that Turkey has no intention to declare war against Montenegro.

St. Petersburg, 20th April—The Shah of Persia has abandoned the campaign against Merv, for which he was lately preparing

25th—The *Official Gazette*, in confirming the news from Constantinople relative to the advice of the Foreign Ministers to the Turkish Government, declares that the Great Powers are firmly unanimous in adopting a pacifying tone in regard to the Eastern question.

Constantinople, 22nd April.—The Porte has ordered a formation camp on the frontier of Montenegro, and threatens to occupy that province unless neutrality is observed.

25th—The Foreign Ministers and all the Great Powers have advised the Porte to abstain from taking action against Montenegro, and have promised to unite in their efforts to pacify that Province. The Porte has accepted these promises, but in the meantime military preparations continue.

Berlin, 26th April—Herr Delbruck has resigned his appointment as Minister of State in consequence of his opposing Count Bismarck's scheme to transfer the German railways to the Empire

26th—At to-day's sitting of the Reichstag, Prince Bismarck denied that Herr Delbruck's resignation was owing to his opposition to the scheme for transferring German railways to the Empire, but to ill-health.

APROPOS of the last *Rhotas* party a Hindu thus writes to this Evening's *Englishman*:

"No distinction of rank, social position, or caste, was shown in the gathering People of all rank, down to the mooktear were invited and they all joined. Whether the object of such gatherings is to reduce the status of the upper class to the level of the commoners, or whether Sir Richard Temple aims at the caste system a death-blow, time will prove But it is clear that the so-called aristocrat body of Calcutta cannot any longer boast of being the only class to whom the privilege of belonging to the Government House List is confined, nor can they now refuse to treat the commoners at all social gatherings, private or public, in the same manner as was done yesterday in the presence of the LieutenantGovernor."

Our contemporary thus comments on the above:

"One thing is certain;—to be the guest of Lieutenant Governor has ceased to be a mark of distinction among natives and thus the Government has deprived itself of one means of showing honour where honour is due, and has parted with a corresponding proportion of its influence."

We must confess that there is much truth in the above, and that there is a strong feeling among the better classes of the native community on the subject. The dead-level system, we agree with our contemporary, cannot but be "demoralizing."

MR. EUSTACE SMITH, who was we believe Sir George Campbell's guest whilst out here about three or four years ago, moved in the House of Commons for the appointment of a Select Committee upon the mode followed in relieving the sufferers by the last Indian famine. Government opposed the motion, which was rejected by 149 votes against 46.

ART GALLERY, CALCUTTA: Number of visitors during the week ending 29th April (exclusive of students of the School of Art) Europeans 53; Natives 113, total 166. The Gallery is for the present open to the Public daily (except Sundays) from 6-30 to 9-30 A. M. and from 3 to 6 P. M., but will be closed from and inclusive of the 8th May until further notice for re-arrangement consequent upon the return of some of the loan pictures to their owners.

BOTH THE *Indu-Prokash* and *Native Opinion* find fault with us for giving the names and disignations of the "immortal ten," who disturbed the Northbrook meeting. In the first place we may mention that the names and disignations of the leading men among them were given in the report of the meeting in the morning papers, and we simply completed the list. But we appeal to our contemporaries to say whether those who publicly came forward to play the part they did need feel ashamed of the publication of their names. The morning papers however reported more which we did not think fit to reproduce As for the general opinion among the native community regarding the conduct of the "ten," the sense of the meeting, the opinions contained in most of the Bengal papers, both English and Vernacular, and last though not the least the vote of censure passed by the League afford sufficient proof, and we do not think that we would have acted faithfully as an exponent of public opinion if we had omitted to advert to it. Our contemporaries are quite mistaken if they think that we noticed the matter from any feeling against the League. The good of the country ought to be our common object, and as union is strength we ought to sink minor differences of opinion for the advancement of that object. That the League does not command the confidence of all is a matter of regret, and that we do not make a gratuitous statement will appear from the following extract from the *National Paper* on the subject of the recent grant to it by the Bengal Government for technical education. Our contemporary says:

"Now we object to the course proposed for the management of the Institution. The league ought not to have the upper hand in the movement—first because as we have already said they form a very insignificant clique, composed only of a few members of the obsolete families of the Dutts of Nimtola and Wellington Square and of a few villagers who have no status in Calcutta Society, and also of few Hatkhola Mahajuns who know only how to deal in rice and jute. Secondly because the proposition is not that of the League, but that of the Government, thirdly because the above handsome subscriptions have been offered to the Government and not to the League."

The *National* we should add belongs to no political party whatever. Nothing will, however, give us greater pleasure than to see the League succeed.

BABU JOGESH CHUNDER DUTT as one of the "ten" has addressed us a long letter respecting the remarks we made on their conduct at the Northbrook meeting. As he simply abuses rather than argues we do not consider ourselves bound to give his letter a place in these columns. He however professes to correct one or two statements, which we will notice. He says that he did not write to the British Indian Association for a copy of the programme of the meeting as Joint Secretary to the League; we did not mean that he did so—our object was to point out that he was Joint Secretary to the League, and not that he had written in that capacity, and if our words did not convey that meaning, we are quite willing to acknowledge our error. Then he says that there were not "ten" but "nearly two dozen" men who wanted to see the amendment put. This might have been the case, but at the meeting Mr. Bell counted "ten" and nobody contradicted him then and there, as he should have been contradicted if he was wrong.

WE ARE EXCEEDINGLY SORRY to record the death of Mr. B. Newton of Messrs. T. E. Thompson and Co, of this city. A gentleman of unassuming manners, steady habits, and thorough conscientiousness he did his work well and faithfully. He was for some years a Justice of the Peace for this town, and he did much good work quietly and silently. He did not belong to the rampant Anglo-Saxon school; in the now notorious Meares' case he would not subscribe either to the memorial or to the fund started by certain Europeans.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications: 1 Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal No. III. March, 1876. 2 Accounts relating to the trade and Navigation of British India for the month of February 1876, and for the eleven months, 1st April 1875 to end of February 1876, compared with the corresponding years 1873-74 and 1874-75. 3. The 5th Annual Report of the National Indian Association, 1875. 4. Journal of the National Indian Association, No. 64 April, 1876. 5. Bijaya Basanta. A tale translated into English by Surroop Chundra Bose.

6. *National Magazine*, Part 9, Vol. I. 7. *Ekaibala Bangali Sahib*, by Girigoverdhun. 8. Stack's Songs of Ind, Second Editon. Wyman & Co.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, MAY 1, 1876.

THE RENT-LAW.

SIR RICHARD TEMPLE will have rendered a signal service to the country, if he can before he lays down the reins of Government place the relations between the landlord and tenant in Bengal on a sound and satisfactory footing. It is notorious that for some years past, as we remarked elsewhere, disputes between the landlord and tenant, have become chronic in Bengal. The feeling between the two in some of the Eastern Districts lately appeared to be so bitter, and the outrages and excesses, prompted by that feeling, so gross and scandalous that the Government was constrained to employ special Police for the preservation of peace and order. The drought and scarcity of 1873-74 for a time calmed the raging passions, but with the return of prosperity in the following year fresh symptoms of the same angry feeling manifested themselves in some parts of Dacca, and the scenes enacted in Pubna would have perhaps been re-anacted there, if the local officers under the judicious guidance of the present head of the local Government had not exercised their influence to put down this evil disposition. The chief cause of this misunderstanding between the zemindar and ryot is traceable to the uncertainty and indefiniteness of the law governing the relations between the two. Whether as regards the recovery of rent or the enhancement of rent the law is not precise, distinct or adequate; the result is that the landlord and tenant cannot clearly comprehend their rights and relations to each other; there is consequently going on a constant struggle between them to assert what they conceive to be their respective rights; they appeal to the courts for the arbitrement of their disputes, but in vain; on the contrary confusion is worse confounded by many conflicting decisions passed by the courts leading each party to believe alternately that he is in the right, and this misconception is a fruitful source of the many mischiefs, which are so much deplored on all sides. Combination among ryots for withholding the payment of rent was not unknown in times past, but the law was strong enough to put down such combination, and the disastrous consequences with which the country is now threatened were therefore not then experienced. Now-a-days if a number of ryots were disposed to combine and resist payment, they could keep the zemindar at bay for any length of time and thus ruin him ultimately. The rent suit under the existing law is a regular civil suit, and where it is contested by the ryot is not ordinarily disposed of in less than six months. It is dilatory, expensive, and harrassing, and the position of the zemindar may be easily imagined, if the bulk of his tenantry become turbulent, and refuse to pay rent. He must institute a suit against every one of his tenantry, and if they continue refractory, he must go on repeating the process, though he must in the meantime anyhow meet the Government revenue. Such a process would drain the richest purse, while the judicial agency, however it might be multiplied by Government, could by no means be equal to the strain which would be thus put upon it. The law's delay would be aggravated by the inadequacy of the judicial machinery. This state of things can be remedied only by a revision of the general Rent-Law. Greater facilities ought to be given for the realization of rent than now exist; and definite rules ought to be laid down for the enhancement of rent, for if proper measures be provided for these two objects, little room will be left for combination and agrarian troubles. The Lieutenant Governor has given much attention to this subject since his return from his famine campaign. He has already passed a temporary law to prevent agrarian disputes, but that law falls far short of the actual necessities of the case. What is wanted is a general amendment of the substantive Rent-law, both in respect of the determination of *the rate of* rent, and the

realization of rent. The last *Calcutta Gazette* contains His Honor's minute on the first part of the subject. His Honor had first recorded a minute upon it in May 1875, which he caused to be circulated to officers of Government and others for opinion; their opinions having been received His Honor has enunciated his own views as to the line of action to be pursued for the determination of the rate of rent. His Honor admits that the rule of proportion laid down in Thakurani Dasi's case by the High Court is not workable. His Honor says:

"I understand that the courts generally try to follow a leading judgment of the High Court according to which the new rent should bear the same proportion to the present value of the produce as the old rent bore to the old value of the produce, when the said rent was last fixed, or at some subsequent period which may be taken as a starting point; or in other words, the old rent should bear to the increased rent the same proportion as the former value of the produce of the soil, calculated on an average of three or five years next before the date of the alleged rise in value, bears to its present value. Without any disparagement of the wisdom and justice of that judgment so far as it goes, without at all doubting that it may have been the best that could have been given under the circumstances, still I must observe that, according to this ruling, the justice of the new rent must rest upon the basis of the old. But what if the old rent was questionable—what if it were too high, as perhaps in some parts of Western Bengal, or too low, as perhaps in some parts of Eastern Bengal? Whatever defect may exist in the old rent is necessarily repeated in the new. Again, it becomes necessary to ascertain judicially the amount and value of the produce, not only at the present time, but also at some antecedent time. If such antecedent time be at all distant, as it may often prove to be, then these matters become difficult of ascertainment. Further, if during the interval between that time and the present the productiveness of the land shall have changed, that is, if the land produces now, say, more or less rice than it did—rice being the most ordinary product—a question difficult of solution arises. And the question becomes still more difficult if the produce itself shall have changed—that is, if land which produced rice when the rent was last fixed now produces jute, or linseed, or safflower, or other crop; a circumstance indeed which underlies many of the large disputes in Eastern Bengal regarding the enhancement of rent. In matters of this kind, the disputing parties are apt to withhold from the courts the information which they alone are capable of affording fully; and thus, by the necessities of its procedure, the court is prevented from knowing the truth. The landlord in such a case may wish to induce the court to adopt some principle other than that embodied in the ruling. The ryot will then stand on the defensive, and say as little as he can. Thus it happens that no person can tell beforehand how the principle will work in any given case, or whether any decision can be arrived at; neither zemindars nor ryots can tell what their relative rights practically are under it; and both parties are often left in a very injurious state of uncertainty."

This is perfectly true. And all this confusion, we repeat, arises from a confounding state of the law. His Honor reproduces the following from the letter of the British Indian Association dated the 10th March last: "the majority of the present occupancy ryots having been in the position of tenants-at-will, the Committee submit that it would meet the ends of justice if an allowance were made to them by the legislature on the principle which has been recognised in the Oudh Rent Act. Under the last-mentioned Act, the rent of the occupancy ryot is fixed at 12½ per cent. less than the rent paid by a tenant-at-will. The Committee, however, are of opinion that this deduction is too low. They would recommend one-fourth or 25 per cent. A prosperous tenantry is a source of strength to the zemindar, and the Committee hold that enough ought to be allowed to the occupancy ryot to enable him to pursue his industry with reasonable satisfaction. The proportion of one-fourth of the difference to the ryot, and three-fourths to the zemindar, in their opinion, would be fair and equitable. The Committee do not think that it will be difficult to ascertain the competitive rates as a rule. Where the land is let out to a tenant-at-will by the landlord, or by the person in receipt of rent direct, it may be easily ascertained. Where, however, the lands are held wholly by occupancy ryots, the competitive rate may be ascertained by reference to the rate of rent paid by "kurfa" ryots cultivating under occupancy ryots or "jotedars."

* * * *

"The Committee have adopted the principle of the competitive rate, because it is a fair test of the value of land. It is a sure indication of the share of the produce of the soil which the cultivating ryot usually receives, and where it is low from whatever cause, the occupancy rent, as a rule, is also low." But they go on to say, "where the competitive rate cannot be ascertained"

* * * *

"the Committee would recommend that the value of the gross produce of the land on the average of the past three years (exceptionally bad years, such as those marked by drought or innundation being excluded from calculation) be divided between the zemindar and the occupancy ryot in the proportion of one-fourth to the former and three-fourths to the latter."

These proposals the Lieutenant Governor remarks are liberal and reflects "much credit" upon the British Indian Association, His Honor makes the following proposals:

"I would thus propose to take a standing of twenty years as now comprising most, though not all, of those who became occupancy ryots under the operation of Act X of 1859, and allow certain terms to them, and then allow more and more favorable terms to the ryots of thirty years and forty years' standing respectively.

With the proviso, then, that the rent of the occupancy ryot should always be less than that of the non-occupancy ryot by 20 per cent., and that full allowance be made for value of improvements made by, or at the expense of the ryot, I propose that in the event of dispute between the landlord and the occupancy ryot, the difference be ascertained between the rent paid by such occupancy ryot and the average rent paid by non-occupancy ryots in the district, or part of the district; and that the said occupancy ryot then be allowed—

one-fifth of the said difference if he be of twenty year's standing;

one-third, if he be of thirty years' standing;

two-thirds, if he be of forty years' standing;

In other words (always with the above-mentioned proviso) his rent could not be enhanced—

beyond 80 per cent. of the difference if he were of twenty years' standing;

beyond 66 per cent., if he were of thirty years' standing;

beyond 33 per cent., if he were of forty years, standing.

One or two instances may be given of the working of the above proposal. Let it be supposed that the average rent rate of non-occupancy ryots in a particular district amounts to 3 Rs. a beegah, and in a disputed case an occupancy ryot is paying only Rs. 1-8, the difference being Rs. 1-8, or twenty-four annas. If the occupancy ryot were of twenty years' standing, his rent might be enhanced by four-fifths of the twenty-four annas, or nineteen annas; if of thirty years' standing by two-thirds or sixteen annas; if of forty years' standing by one-third or eight annas.

Now the men who were enhanced by nineteen and by sixteen annas would be assessed to Rs. 1-8 + 19 annas or Rs. 2-11, and Rs. 1-8 + 16 annas or Rs. 2-8. But there is the proviso that a margin of 20 per cent. must be left below the 3 Rs. in favour of the occupancy ryot or 9¾ annas, so that this rent could not exceed Rs. 2-6¼. In both these cases then the award would be reduced from Rs. 2-11 and Rs. 2-8 to Rs. 2-6¼.

Or let it be supposed that the average rent rate of non occupancy ryots amounts to Rs. 2 per beegah, and an occupancy ryot is paying only 14 annas, the difference being 18 annas. If he be of twenty years' standing his rent might be enhanced by 14¼ annas, or up to 14 + 14¼, or Rs. 1-12½; but the proviso would reduce the award to 20 per cent. below Rs. 2 or to Rs. 1-9¼. If he were of 40 years' standing his rent might be enhanced by 6 annas (one-third of 18 annas), that is up to 14 + 6 annas, or Rs. 1-4.

Again, if the rate for non-occupancy ryots be Rs. 3, then if an occupancy ryot is paying Rs. 2-6¼, his rent cannot be enhanced; if it be Rs. 2, then, if the occupancy ryot be paying Rs 1-9¼, his rent cannot be enhanced.

The main principle upon which the proposals of the Lieutenant Governor are based is sound and just—it is this that the rent of the occupancy ryot should be fixed at a rate less than a certain proportion compared with the rate paid by the non-occupancy ryot. This is the principle on which the rent of the occupancy ryot is fixed in the N. W. P. the Punjab and Oudh. In Oudh it is 12½ per cent and in the Punjab 15 per cent less, but the Lieutenant Governor would make it in Bengal 20 per cent less. So far so good. But we do not think the classification of occupancy ryots and the graduated rates of rent will work satisfactorily. There will be so much misunderstanding and litigation in proving the different periods of tenancy prescribed that the remedy we fear will be worse than the disease. The classification will lead to perjury and forgery on both sides, and thus the evil passions of both parties will be roused. Unless a uniform rate were fixed for occupancy ryots of all denominations, there would be a perpetual struggle between the landlord and tenant of perhaps a worse character than now. The calculations made by the Lieutenant Governor are somewhat roundabout. It would be more business-like if the deduction to be made from the rent of the occupancy ryot were made on a uniform principle so that both the zemindar and ryot may come to arrangements under the general directions of the law by mutual agreement. The British Indian Association's suggestion for making an allowance of 25 per cent in favour of the occupancy ryot all round compared with the rent paid by the non-occupancy ryot is far too liberal and eminently practical. It will not be necessary to make enquiries as to length of tenancy—in fact the principle will be self-acting. We do not think that it will be difficult to ascertain the rate paid by the non-occupancy ryot, but where it may be difficult to do so, the Association suggests that the gross value of the produce should be divided in the proportion of one-fourth to the zemindar and three-fourths to the ryot. Nothing could be fairer than this. But on this point, the position assumed by the Lieutenant Governor would be most disastrous. His Honor says: "If, however, a Court of Justice felt doubt upon the evidence, it ought to have power to require the Collector of the district to ascertain and certify the average rate according to custom in the district or part of a district. Or if doubt should still remain, then the rent of the non-occupancy ryot should be calculated at one-fourth or 25 per cent. of the value of the gross produce, with a further allowance of 5 per cent. to cover risks of season, or 20 per cent. on the whole." Let us see how this principle would work. Take the value of the gross produce of land at Rs. 8; 20 per cent. of this value would be about Re. 1-9-6; this would be the non-occupancy ryot's rate according to the Lieutenant Governor's method of calculation; apply again the principle of 20 per cent. deduction for the first class of occupancy ryots, and the rent payable by them would be fixed at about Re. 1-5 ans. Now the occupancy ryot might be paying Rs. 3. This principle would thus lead to a wholesale lowering of the rents. Nothing could be more unjust and unrighteous than such legislation. Perhaps His Honor has not contemplated the disastrous consequences which this method of calculation would lead to. These are points of detail, which His Honor we make no doubt will consider and modify. He has however taken a step in advance by coming forward to solve the great problem of the rent-law of Bengal, and we wish him success. Both zemindars and ryots will feel equally grateful to him if he can remove the present apple of discord between them.

BENGAL AND BOMBAY.

IN OUR last we endeavoured to trace the causes of the difference of opinion amongst the Europeans and Natives in respect of the merits of Lord Northbrook's administration. We propose now to examine the causes of similar difference of opinion among the natives of Bengal and Bombay on the subject. The influence of the Viceroy is more directly felt in Bengal than in Bombay. Calcutta is the capital of the empire and the official residence of the Viceroy. The Government of Bengal is more directly under the control of the Viceroy than those of the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay. The latter correspond directly with the Secretary of State. This is not the case with the Government of Bengal. The Lieutenant Governor of Bengal as his designation implies is more directly under the control of the Governor General than the Governors of Madras and Bombay, and consequently the action of the Governor General whether for good or evil, is more directly felt in Bengal. We may mention one notable instance by way of illustration. In 1874 the Magistrate of Hooghly issued an interdiction to the priests of Juggannath of Mahesh prohibiting the pulling of the Ruth or car on the ground that it was in a ricketty and dangerous condition. They represented that they had made all necessary repairs,

and solicited that the District Engineer might be instructed to examine the car, but no satisfactory reply was received. The first day of the Ruth festival passed away without the observance of the religious ceremony. Great was the dissatisfaction among the people at this arbitrary interference with their religion. The priests or rather the proprietor of the Ruth however made a happy hit and applied to Mr. Leslie, the Engineer of the Justices, to examine the car, which he did, and granted a certificate to the effect that it would be perfectly safe to draw it as usual. But the priests were in another predicament. The inspection by Mr. Leslie took place just one day previous to the second day of the festival or the Oolta Ruth. If they had to go through the usual circumlocution system, they would have had to make a petition, 1stly to the sub-divisional officer of Serampore, 2ndly to the District Magistrate of Hooghly, 3rdly to the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division, and lastly to the Bengal Government. It would have at least taken a month to get the orders of the Bengal Government through "the usual channel," but there was not a day to be lost. Again, the head of the Bengal Government was not then in the capital. What were they to do?—they were sorely perplexed, when the happy thought occurred to them that they should petition the Governor General direct as His Excellency was the supreme ruler of India. They had received the certificate from Mr. Leslie at noon; they at once got a petition drafted and copied out, and not to lose time they submitted it through the Private Secretary to the Viceroy. This much-abused gentleman did not stick to red-tapism but at once received it. The Viceroy was placed in a rather embarassing position; it was not usual for him to issue orders directly about any matter affecting a local administration, but the question was most pressing; on the one side was red-tape, and on the other the excited religious feeling of the people of the metropolitan districts. His Excellency however managed the matter quietly without wounding the *amour propre* of the Bengal Government. His Excellency sent for the Bengal Secretary, who was in town, and without passing any orders himself communicated the petition to him, and while expressing his own opinion left the matter in the hands of the local authorities. This had the desired effect. The Bengal Secretary telegraphed to the Burdwan Commissioner, and as Mr. Leslie's certificate was conclusive arranged with him that orders should be immediately issued permitting the priests to draw the car as usual. All this took place in scarcely twenty-four hours. Thus the prompt action of the Viceroy prevented what threatened to say the least to be a grave scandal, and allayed the excited feeling of the people. Now, such action could not have under like circumstances taken place in Bombay and Madras for the simple reason that the Viceroy is so far away from the other provinces. The people of Bengal being thus more immediately under the supervision of the Government of India are in a better position to appreciate the effects of the Governor General's policy in local matters than those of the distant provinces, and it is not therefore a matter of surprise that they should be more ready to express their sense of gratitude.

Bengal has of course special reasons to be grateful to Lord Northbrook. Question after question arose in Sir George Campbell's time, in respect of which Bengal would have fared very badly indeed, if the late Viceroy had not interposed his beneficent authority and thrown oil over troubled waters. We will give a few facts. Take the education question first. The cry against high education had been rising since the days of Lord Lawrence, and it reached the climax under Sir George Campbell. Sir George wanted to abolish most of the Mofussil Colleges by reducing them to the status of high schools, and he had marked for this purpose the Krishnaghur, Berhampore, Hooghly and Patna Colleges. Lord Northbrook was appealed to by the people of Bengal, and it was due to his Lordship's action that the last two Colleges were saved, the first two having been already reduced. His Lordship affirmed the principles of the Education Despatch, and held that while every facility should be given to popular education due care should also be taken of high education. His Lordship's action regarding the proposed increase of municipal taxation in Bengal is too well known to need recapitulation. Then came the question of so-called illegal cesses. Orissa was the first scene of Sir George Campbell's operations. The effect of Sir George's inflammatory policy was the fomenting of a war between the landlord and tenant. Lord Northbrook saw the mischief of this policy, and at once arrested it. Sir George made proposals for putting down the levy of the cesses, which would have resulted in the confiscation of proprietory rights guaranteed by law, and Lord Northbrook set his face against them. Then Sir George Campbell proposed to wage a crusade against the religion of the people by putting down the Ruth Jatra festival, Lord Northbrook repressed that measure. Sir George Campbell sought to override the High Court, but Lord Northbrook would not allow him to do so. The former if we were informed aright actually entered a protest against the independence of the late Justice Dwarkanath Mitter, particularly in reference to the now notorious Malda Case, and advised against the policy of appointing natives to the bench of the High Court, but not only Lord Northbrook took no notice of this protest, but marked his confidence in natives by appointing a native successor to the lamented Justice Mitter, though there was a widely circulated rumour at the time that no native would be again appointed to the Bengal High Court. The subject of the Famine is too fresh in the public mind to require lengthened notice. His Lordship for the first time recognized the sovereign's duty of saving the subject population from starvation. We could multiply other instances, but it is not necessary to do so. We have not adverted to the generous spirit which characterized his personal intercourse with the people. His Lordship made no invidious distinction of race or color in the treatment of natives, and as usual his spirit infused itself in other European officers of position and influence. It will be thus seen that Bengal having had the best opportunities of observing the good effects of Lord Northbrook's policy and action has been more forward to acknowledge them.

We have said above that the system of administration pursued in Bombay makes the influence of the Vice-regal action less directly felt, and this to our mind accounts for the most part for the difference of opinion in Bombay. The sister Presidency has however a special grievance against the late Viceroy. At an evil hour he allowed Sir Barrow Ellis to introduce the Bombay Revenue Jurisdiction Bill, and for nearly three years that Bill has been the subject of agitation. We have over and over said that we do not approve of the principle of the Bill, and we cannot too deeply regret that His Lordship should have thought fit to persist in it. If the Government is but the trustee of the public, it is inconceivable that any ruler should pursue a policy or a line of action, which is in direct opposition to the opinions, views, and wishes of the public. If the Government of this country is a despotism, it is despotism tempered by public opinion, and on no question was public opinion more distinctly expressed than on the subject of the Bombay Revenue Jurisdiction Bill. And yet regardless of public opinion Lord Northbrook allowed this Bill to pass, and that through the agency of a member, whose own proceedings as a revenue officer had been the subjects of severe criticisms both in the court and in the press. We are quite at one with our countrymen in Bombay on this subject, and we hope they will allow that we have never been wanting in our duty in giving them our humble support to their representations in respect of this Bill. But we cannot agree with them, if they go to the length that Lord Northbrook's administration has not benefitted them. The abolition of the Income tax is a case in point. Nowhere was the cry against this "odious tax" stronger than in Bombay, and its repeal was as much a benefit to that presidency as to the other presidencies and provinces. It is now said that the merit of the measure does not belong to Lord Northbrook, for it was contemplated by his predecessor. Now, it is quite true that Lord Mayo did admit the evils of the Income tax, but his Lordship never had the courage to speak out what he thought. On the contrary his Lordship defended increase of taxation in this country by pointing out upon a wrong basis that the pressure of taxation upon the people of India was low compared with the same in the European countries. In another column we show from the figures furnished by Mr. Dadhabhai Naoroji how egregiously was the deceased Governor General mistaken on this subject. Lord Mayo might have had good intentions in the matter, but good intentions are no cure for a rampant evil. It was his Lordship, who allowed the doubling of the Income tax in the middle of the financial year of 1870-71. It is said that were it not for Lord Mayo's Decentralization Resolution Lord Northbrook could not have reduced taxation. We are advocates of the Decentralization system, but we have always been of opinion that Lord Mayo's Resolution fell far short of the necessities of the case. But what was the immediate effect of this Resolution? Increase of local taxation all round. He imposed land rates or cesses in the N. W. P., the Punjab and Oudh. This measure he passed through his own Council. He directed the imposition of the Road Cess in Bengal, and when Lord Northbrook came this question had passed discussion. But there were local cesses proposed for Bombay and Madras, which had not been brought into operation. Sir Seymour Fitzerald proposed a tax on feasts, which was however withdrawn. Lord Northbrook directed the abolition of the non-agricultural cess in Bombay and of the general house-tax in Madras. He also abolished the Southern Customs line. His Lordship's decision in the Bombay Riots' case, censuring the action of the local Government, is well known, and gave satisfaction to the people of Bombay. His Lordship disallowed some of the obnoxious bills of the Bombay Council, an act for which the people of Bombay were then exceedingly grateful. But by far the most important action taken by his Lordship, which principally affected Bombay, was in respect of the cotton duty. We consider it unfortunate that Lord Northbrook spoiled his liberal Tariff policy by imposing an import duty on long-stapled yarn; this was a blot on an otherwise unimpeachable policy, but fortunately it is destined to remain innoccuous. The manly stand which he made against the Secretary of State's demand for the reduction or repeal of the duty on cotton goods is deserving of all praise. That one act was sufficient to signalize his administration. If Lord Northbrook had not had the courage to resist the unrighteous demand of Lord Salisbury, not only would the cotton duties have gone, but perhaps the Income tax would have been re-imposed. His Lordship followed the noble maxim of Lord Halifax that the "interests of the people of India demanded his first consideration," and his action shewed that it was not an empty vaunt. Did not such a conscientious and single-minded statesman deserve the utmost support of the people of India? In expressing the nation's gratitude to such a statesman did the people of Bengal betray their self-imposed trust? Of course like other mortals Lord Northbrook was not perfect; he committed both errors of omission and commission, but to err is human. In weighing the character of a statesman as indeed of any other man we ought to weigh his merits and demerits, and if the former outweigh the latter, surely the public verdict ought to be in favour of that man or statesman. Admitting that Bombay has a substantial grievance against Lord Northbrook in respect of the Revenue Jurisdiction Bill is it right or just that it should ignore all the services of the late Viceroy? The close of his Lordship's administration was certainly not in keeping with its general tenour, but we make no doubt that after the excitement about the Revenue Jurisdiction Act passes away Bombay will agree with Bengal that upon the whole Lord Northbrook's administration was wise and beneficent.

THE BOMBAY REVENUE JURISDICTION ACT.

WE congratulate Bombay on the energetic agitation it has set on foot against the Revenue

Jurisdiction Act. The late meeting held in the Western Capital to memorialize the Secretary of State against the Act was one of the most successful ever held in that city. The *Bombay Gazette* says "that it was one of the most remarkable political demonstrations that have ever taken place in Bombay. Representatives of all classes of the community were present, and the greatest unanimity of feeling prevailed." Mr. Wood, late editor of the *Times of India*, in a speech remarked, "he wished it to be seen that this movement was one of the general public and not any mere sectional or class movement. This was not a zemindars' or landlords' agitation. True, the landholders were directly affected by the Bill against which they were protesting, but they must remember that the vast majority of landholders in this presidency are ryots. These cultivators of the soil most needed the defence and security which the Courts alone can afford them and by this public movement they were taking the part of the most defenceless class." The speeches delivered were above average. We are glad to notice that the native speakers spoke with an eloquence and ability, which have extorted the admiration of even the severe critic of the *Bombay Gazette*. That journal says: "At no public meeting within our remembrance has the political capacity of the natives of Western India been shown to greater advantage; and the speeches of the Rao Saheb V. N. Mandlic and Mr. Telang were really excellent specimens of oratory. No Englishman can appreciate the flexibility of the English language till he has heard it spoken by an educated and naturally clever native of India. But these speeches had something more in them than mere rhetoric; they were closely reasoned and vigorous, and had a telling effect on the audience." This is no ordinary compliment. The many proofs which the educated natives in Calcutta and in Bombay are giving of their capacity to grapple with most difficult legal and political questions of the day, in a thoroughly constitutional manner, intelligently, firmly, and loyally, cannot but be a matter of congratulation with our rulers, whose educational policy has trained up this band of constitutional defenders of their country.

It really gives us pleasure to see the European and the Native go hand in hand in this battle for the vindication of law and justice. Mr. Maclean, the editor of the *Bombay Gazette*, who took a prominent part in the meeting, in an able speech, said: — "The jurisdiction is taken away to this extent, that where there are specific documents, such as *sunnuds* or grants, which would in the ordinary course be brought before the courts of law, the jurisdiction is to be maintained; but where a man's right is founded on what is called the custom of the Country, or a tenure, or anything of the kind which Mr. Hope thinks fit to call of a technical nature, the whole matter is to be left to the Revenue officers alone. A distinction of that kind would have taken out of the jurisdiction of the Civil Courts such a case as the Kabilpur case, which was heard the other day, and the Revenue officers had quadrupled the assessment on the property, though it was proved the holder had for 180 years paid a uniform assessment, according to the tenure and the custom of the country. (Hear. hear.) Now I think that nothing can be plainer than that to take away from the Civil Courts and place in the hands of men whose interest it is to increase the revenue for the benefit of the State, any power of that sort, will amount, within certain limits, to a confiscation of the rights of property. (Applause) That, I think, is a fair definition of the extent to which this bill will apply. And now I will ask the question,—what are the reasons that are given by Mr. Hobhouse and Mr. Hope for changing the law? The usual reason for changing a law is that it is creating dissatisfaction among the people, or that it is disliked by the Government or has been found to be unworkable. That has not been found to be the case with the present law. It has worked well for 50 years, and the people and the Government are satisfied with it; no one has made any objection to it except the people who are collecting the taxes. And what is their complaint? Not that they are unjustly treated by the Civil Courts,—they don't dare to say that; but that they are put to a little trouble and expense. (Hear, hear.) Now, what is more right than that they should occasionally be put upon their trial, and made to show that their mode of collecting the assessment is just and proper? And what can be more dangerous than to change a law which satisfies the taxpayers, merely because the tax-gatherers are dissatisfied?" (Applause.) Mr. Maclean manfully stood up for the Civil Courts. He said, "lately a new school has sprung up, and the hateful doctrine has been preached that no man has any right to property in the soil except what the State chooses to leave him; and this principle has been carried out, I am sorry to say, to a great extent in the re-assessments of some of the newer provinces. What is the result? I dont know that in the provinces that are governed by the Civil Courts we have yet a Deccan Ryot Commission. (applause,) or any necessity for it (hear,); and I think when Mr. Hobhouse puts forward that challenge and asks us why we prefer the legislation of Mountstuart Elphinstone to that of the Land Revenue Survey Department, we can give him a very fair answer indeed. (cheers.)" He continued: "It is said that we are all under a gross mistake in supposing that the law of England protects the rights of private property, and that it does nothing of the kind; that the Tax-collector there can do almost anything he likes in exercise of his authority, and that, so long as he acts within the scope of his duty, no one can harm him, and there is no appeal from him, except to the Commissioners under whom he is acting. There is, in regard to the assessment of Queen's Taxes, only an appeal, I believe, to the Commissioners at Somerset House; but there are a good many Englishmen present, I am glad to see, and I would ask any one of them if he has ever heard of a case of this kind in England where the tax-gatherer appointed to collect the land-tax goes down to some estate in the country, and, instead of levying the tax quietly takes up his quarters at the village inn, and makes inquiries about the Lord of the manor, and having picked up some story, perhaps about some ancestor of his having been changed at nurse with the real heir of the property who died abroad, or some other old wife's fable about his having forged the deeds, or something of that kind, sends in a report to Somerset House, whereupon the Commissioners immediately communicate with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the lord of the manor is told the property is not his, and that as occupier he must pay a certain amount year after year to the Government for ever. That would be similar to the action a Revenue officer may take under the provisions of this bill." The Hon'ble Rao Saheb Vishnath Mandalik delivered a vigorous and closly reasoned speech. He quoted Sir B. Ellis against himself. In 1838, he said, the cognizance of tenure suits was transferred to the Civil Courts, and in 1866 the last remnant of the Civil Jurisdiction possessed by the Revenue Courts was swept away and the Courts of Adawlat or Civil Courts were left completely free to dispense justice in all causes whatsoever. Sir Barrow Ellis, in introducing this last Act, spoke as follows:—'When the judicial Courts were first established it was supposed that Revenue officers would be better able to dispose of the class of cases described in Chapter VIII. of Regulation XVII. of 1827 than the Civil Courts. It was felt that the latter Courts from their want of local knowledge, would not be able to extend that protection to the cultivating classes of which the latter from their ignorance, stood in special need. The ryots, however, were now much improved in their social position, and were quite able to take care of their own rights. The character of the Civil Courts had also been raised; and it was the general opinion that they could be safely invested with jurisdiction in cases between the ryots and superior holder. The present Bill would not affect, the Bombay Act V. of 1864, nor the Survey and Settlement Act." And the same Sir B. Ellis was the author of the new Act. We are glad to perceive that the benefits of the permanent settlement of Bengal were acknowledged at the meeting. Rao Saheb Vishnath Mandalik said: "Then there is another reason why this evil is not experienced to such an extent in Bengal; and that is that there is the permanent settlement of Lord Cornwallis, so that disputes do not rise once in a generation, no Revenue officer having the chance of interfering." Again: "In a Presidency which does not enjoy the benefits of the great Cornwallis Settlement, and the assessments in which may be re-opened once in every thirty years, it is extremely essential that we should enjoy the protection given to us by Section IX, Regulation XVII. of 1827." The speaker then continued:

"Mr. Hope's next argument is equally futile. Under the present system of administration, there are no Revenue Courts, at least none in this Presidency since 1866. And the appeals to the superior officers are all decided upon the *ex-perte* reports of the very officers whose acts have been impugned. Add to this, it has been proved over again, that in these Revenue enquiries the law of evidence is, as often as not, entirely set aside; and this is perhaps what Mr. Hope may be pleased to call going to the bottom of a case. No publicity, no argument, no judicial training, what can be the result? And yet this is the great specific of Mr. Hope. He would evidently not have any body pinned down to anything. For, he says, in depicting an imaginary trial, in a Civil Court, of a Revenue, case, "we should find the Cour s and the counsel on both sides, striving with great zeal, honesty and ability, to make out what the whole thing was about. We might find dictionaries of doubtful authority consulted as to the meaning of Revenue terms; we should probably find one side or the other pinned by the Court to ill-weighed statements made by individual witnesses. Old printed reports about one thing might be supposed to apply to another really quite different. We might also find a whole mass of papers and accounts, perhaps some four or five hundred, handed over to the translators down at the Presidency—papers in regard to some of which the entire value depended upon some idiomatic term of the native language; and the result of such translation might be somewhat similar to what might be that of an English character or title-deed some two hundred years old, when rendered into Hindustanee by a European." So it comes to this: our Courts, our interpreters, our dictionaries, our law of evidence and procedure; our whole legal machinery is wrong; and the great Revenue man, so well depicted by Mr. Shore, is right. With him, witnesses are not to be "pinned" to their ill-weighed statements. Although Colonel Francis may, as a witness, state on oath [as he has done] that a certain percentage of produce is the standard of assessment, he may improve upon it in another case in the Revenue Court. An idiomatic term may be interpreted according to *Huzur-ki-marzi* [the will of the officers] and not by the best available dictionaries published mostly under the auspices of the State. If the weight "of the chain of Revenue officers" is to prevail, I fear even the Privy Council will have to give way; *La-khiraj* cases like the Burdwan case in 4th Moore's East India Appeals, must be pronounced to be erroneous on the principles now enunciated by Mr. Hope. The argument against the competency of the judicial branch of the Bombay service is one that proves too much. He thus concluded: "I am surprized at the Hon'ble Mr. Hobhouse speaking in the fashion he does in regard to the customs of native rulers. No doubt under bad native rulers as under bad rulers of all nations, things, that ought to be respected, have been outraged; but to say that the expression 'as long as the sun and the moon endure' was treated as conferring a title that could be extinct by the death of either the grantor or the grantee, is to say something to which the whole history of the country gives a complete contradiction. As Mr. Candy points out (Bombay Government Selections, No. 134, New Series, P. 4) that "however arbitrary native governments may have been, it will always be found that Sanads were respected." But I go further than this and say that an argument like this is entirely out of place in the mouth of such a gentleman as Mr. Hobhouse, in the position he occupies. Mr. Hobhouse points to the last Act about Burma, and casts a sideglance at England. But Bombay is neither Burma nor England. And if even his philosophical predecessor has had to give up a scheme of uniform procedure for India "as too ambitious," why are we to be deprived of our Elphinstone code,—safeguards in matters of

land revenue? It is not the number of suits or their ultimate determination that I go by, but it is the principle: the liability to be sued is that which deters energetic Revenue officers from the almost necessary abuse of discretionary power which grows by what it feeds on. Sir, the present Bill seems to be devised as the sort of specific for Revenue evils. But I would caution those who pass such laws to study the words of Sir George Cornwall Lewis, and reject such panaceas as absolutely worthless. If it be statemanship to fly in the face of the whole country in 1876, all I can say is that history has been written in vain. If some department had not reported on the Bill surely it may be because it was never asked, and if the Bill was worth anything it could have borne more light, more discussion. But to pass this law as it has been, all within five months, may be a matter of Mr. Hope's hopeful policy; but what will be the verdict of the country? I ask the question of the people of England and of the Secretary of State as their representative, and I calmly await their reply."

And we hope that the answer will be given by the Secretary of State in the interest of law and justice.

THE EXCHANGE QUESTION.

SINCE we last noticed this most important question, which is daily attracting an increasing interest in various parts of the world, things have taken a fresh turn. The unprecedented stringency in the rates of exchange, especially in England, has proved ruinous enough to consignees and importers of goods on this side. We find that by the last mail Bills covering shipping documents were drawn by Agents in England at 1s. 7¾d per rupee, thus causing a loss of nearly 20 per cent. This depreciation in the value of the rupee is the more astonishing in the face of the suspension of drawings by the Secretary of State.

It appears that those interested in the political administration of Great Britain are not unconscious of the unparalleled mischief done to the cause of commerce. A Committee of the House of Commons has been appointed to consider the best remedy for improving the value of silver now so much depreciated.

We hope we shall not be considered too presumptuous if we repeat our humble suggestion as to the advisability of introducing a uniform silver currency for India and England, which in all probability will arrest at once the further fall, as we said before, in silver, and tend to relieve remitters from the serious difficulties they are now laboring under.

In carrying out, however, a wholesome measure like this, a question of the most vital importance arises, namely, where is the money to be had for buying the silver with? It is universally admitted that besides the plethora of silver, the sensible fall of *our* export trade is another powerful cause of the tremendous fall in the rates of exchange. In the absence therefore of a variety of staples sufficient in bulk to keep up an equilibrium of trade between India and Great Britain, we are sadly in want of some commodity to fill up the gap in the commercial intercourse between the two countries thus caused by the poverty of our export trade. This commodity is no other than a a silver coin which would be equally current here and in England at a fixed English value. The present market value of silver and the low rates of interest, 1½ to 2 per cent. per annum, now prevailing in England, are tempting enough for taking advantage of the facilities which the money market there is now offering. To raise a loan for this specific purpose would not be difficult, and we feel almost certain that a mere attempt at trying this expedient, would tend to stiffen the value of silver, and lessen that of gold, the high price of which latter at present is one of the causes of the alarming rates of exchange. We venture to add that with a uniform silver currency we propose, the present difficulty in the means for the purchase of gold will be obviated at the same time; and with the gold thus purchased, the loans raised for this purpose might easily be paid off at no distant period. The capitalist may also feel disposed to buy up silver *for the sake of speculation, so long as* there will be a margin left after its coinage. It is needless for us to remark how far the silver currency we recommend will meet the public demand in this country, and conduce to relax the present tightness of the exchange market.

We feel the more sanguine of a successful result of the measure from the union between India and Great Britain being now the more cemented by Her Gracious Majesty's condescension to accept the title of "Empress of India," recently conferred on her by the British Parliament. The apprehensions of the sceptical as to the future of India are, now we hope removed; the imperial guarantee ought now to be given to the Indian debt; and English capitalists will now doubtless be as willing to invest in Indian loans as in English Consols.

IS THE INDIAN PRESS LICENTIOUS?

MORE than once in the course of his speech in the Tariff debate the Duke of Argyll called the Indian Press "licentious." We will quote one passage. "The Legislature of India," said His Grace, "sits in the presence of a vast community, not quite so dumb as the noble Marquis supposes, but now represented by a powerful, a free, and I am afraid I must say a licentious Press." Of course the charge is against the whole press of India, both Europeans and Natives. Time was when the Press of India was called the "blaguard press," but the imputation has now softened down into "licentious Press." The Duke adduced the following as a proof of his charge. "No action of the Government escapes the most hostile criticism, the most jealous watchfulness; and I know as a fact that it is one of the most common and popular imputations on the Government of India in regard to any measure that is unpopular with that Press to say that they are acting as mere puppets of the Government at home, and with a view to English interest. (Hear, hear.)" Now, is the Press of India far wrong if it resents any measure, which is forced when the Government of India by the Home Government in contravention of the true interests of India. Take this Tariff question. Does not the attitude of the Secretary of State justify all that the Indian Press has written about it? What could be a better proof of the justice of the comments of the Indian Press on this subject than the loud denunciations of it in the English Press and in the Upper House of Parliament? If the serene Lords could not contain themselves in condemning the policy of the Secretary of State, was it meet that the Duke of Argyll should have charged the Indian Press with "licentiousness" for giving expression to public feeling here? Give a dog a bad name and then hang it. The Indian Press has not used half the strong expressions, which he himself uttered in condemnation of Lord Salisbury's policy—His Grace's speech is a masterpiece of invective, and yet he warned the Indian minister against it because he would give a handle to the licentious Press of India as if the comments could be worse than the measure itself.

But we are more concerned with the Native Press than the Anglo-Indian Press. And it affords us great pleasure to notice that the same mail, which brought in a report of the Duke's speech, also brought in an article of the *Times* on the Native Press. The Thunderer says: "It is the most natural thing in the world, and within certain limits it is extremely judicious, that the Government should constantly study the expressions of opinion contained in the Native journals. Timidity and reserve—a desire to say what is for the moment acceptable and a fear of giving offence—make it most difficult to ascertain by direct inquiry what is the opinion of any man, or of any class, on any particular public question; yet the bias and conclusions of Native opinion often form important elements in determining the course the Government should adopt." After premising that the Government ought to consult Native opinion, the writer goes on:

"There is in India a good deal of indiscriminate criticism of the Government of the day. In this there is nothing strange; it is no more than ought to be expected under the circumstances of the situation. We all know the Irishman who was asked on his arrival in the United States whether he was Hard Shell or Soft Shell, and candidly answered that he did not know; but when a second question was put to him whether he was for or against the Government, replied at once that he was "agin the Government anyhow." Even in England there are politicians who rely on periodic changes in the verdicts of borough constituencies, because of the tendency of a floating proportion of the voters to go against the Administration for the time being. The men whose state of education has not led them to understand the limitations of administrative ability, and who visit all the shortcomings of life upon the Government because they believe a Government can do anything, are tolerably numerous in Middlesex and Lancashire. Precisely the same disposition is to be found in the educated Bengalee, and it is probably a little more freely developed because of the separation which *de facto* exists between the Bengalees and the exercise of administrative power. The tendency to find fault with everything that is done or omitted to be done is not less strong because the critic looks upon the actor as a person altogether removed from himself. Even the Government of Bengal is probably not always perfect, and, indeed, the acts of some of Sir Richard Temple's predecessors have occasionally seemed to English observers open to criticism; and it is not impossible that Bengalee journalists are sometimes justified, although the Bengal Government sees nothing but indiscriminate carping in their remarks. Were it otherwise, there is nothing that should disturb us in the circumstance. The lightning of the Bengalee Press is very harmless, and its occasional excesses are more than counterbalanced by the utility of its existence as a manifestation and safety-valve of public opinion. The spirit which animates the conductors of the Native papers is seen in the circumstance to which attention is called by our Correspondent with the Prince—that these journals are at the same time loud in the Prince's praise and severe in their strictures on the regulations of the local Government. The quarrel, as they have a right to do, with the errors, or repated errors, of individual administrators, but are profound in their loyalty to the rule represented by their Royal visitor.

But the *Times* is not a blind critic. It looks deeper and thus evolves the true canon of criticism in judging the effusions of the Native Press. It says: "It is not always easy to bear criticism with equanimity, and we must be tolerant of Indian officials if they sometimes appear too eager to repress their assailants. Officials nowhere like criticism, and where they form a powerful class placed above the mass of the people whose affairs they administer, they are apt to visit those who find fault with them with wrath that can be felt. In old days—everything of the kind is of course now changed—the German official illustrated this temper with great activity. Here in London, if the officers of Inland Revenue, of the Cosutom House, and the Post Office constituted the majority of a governing caste, the free expressions of complaint that are to be found now and then in our columns would be denounced as dangerous symptoms of disloyalty. The Indian Government is probably better served, on the whole, than any Government in the world, but its officials are constantly endowed with enormous authority, they are courted and almost worshipped as a superior order by the masses that approach them, and it almost necessarily follows that impatience of Native criticism should assume proportions in some of them which require to be habitually repressed. The cry which is raised at intervals for a censorship or for some other mode of restraining the liberty of the Native Press is an instance of what we mean. We do not say that extracts might not be accumulated that should present a great show of disrespect and discontent, but when we examine the matter more closely to ascertain whence these extracts come we find they proceed from a limited number of the most obscure publications, and the general character of the vernacular Press is one of habitual loyalty to the British connexion, though qualified with sharp and sometimes indiscriminate criticism of British officials."

If the Native Press is sometimes violent, it is because the officials, with honorable exceptions, are arrogant and intolerant. They seem to think that the Indian subjects of the Queen are not made of the same flesh and blood with themselves and their countrymen, and what could be more rational for the former than to appeal in their own way to the gracious Sovereign, who has conferred upon them equal rights and privileges in common with their European fellow-subjects. We are fully aware that the Native Press has many shortcomings, but it is placed in a peculiar and trying position. The European community is not much affected by the measures and policy of the Government; it is the children of the soil who suffer by them; and it is therefore the duty of the exponents of native opinion to speak out freely. And because they do so they are charged with licentiousness!

POVERTY OF INDIA.

THIS is the title of an interesting and instructive paper by Mr. Dadhabhai Naoroji. It deserves the careful attention of all, who take an

interest in the material condition of the people of India. It is replete with figures, which have been for the most part taken from official records. Mr. Dadabhai says: "The Central Provinces and Burmah reports are the only two complete in their agricultural tables as far as practicable. Four others (Madras, North-West Provinces, Punjab, and Oudh) give them imperfectly. Bengal and Bombay gave the least, or none, up to 1869-70. For what I could not get from the reports I applied to the India Office, which naturally replied they could not give what they did not get from India. It will be seen, therefore, that I have been obliged to work out the production under much difficulty. Not only is the quantity of information insufficient, but the quality even of such as is given is defective." Nevertheless Mr. Dadabhai has collected a mass of valuable figures. The following are his calculations of the productions of the different provinces of India. We give them *seriatim*. *Central Provinces.*—The total value of agricultural produce is acres 12,378,215 × Rs. 12=Rs. 14,85,38,580. To this is to be added the produce of Sumbulpore; but the acreage of that district is not given. Making some allowance for it, Mr. Dadabhai increases the produce to, say, Rs. 16,00,00,000, or £16,000,000, for a population of 9,000,000. *Punjab.*—The chief crops are wheat and other inferior grains—the former nearly 20, and the latter 50 per cent., of the whole cultivation. Adding up the value of the produce of irrigated and unirrigated land, the total is Rs. 39,21,72,651. From this Mr. Dadabhai deducts 10 per cent. by way of correction of incorrect averages, which leaves Rs. 35,29,54,800 for a population of 17,593,946, or say £36,000,000 for a population of 17,500,000. *N. W. P.*—The grand total of the value of the produce of irrigated and unirrigated land is—

Irrigated.....	10,045,050 acres	= Rs.	24,38,93,814
Unirrigated.....	14,132,111 ,,	= ,,	19,06,42,177
Total.....	24,117,161 ,,	,,	43,45,35,991

Deducting 10 per cent. for reasons stated above, the remainder will be Rs. 39,10,82,392 for a population of 30,086,898, or say £40,000,000 for a population of 30,000,000. *Bengal.* The approximate area of cultivated land is say, five-sixths of 67,000,000, or 56,000,000 acres. The produce per acre, taken at 24 maunds paddy per acre, will give about 13 maunds of clean rice, or 1,066 lbs.—say 1,100. The total produce of 56,000,000 acres will be 616,000,000 lbs., which, at 58 lbs. per rupee (as obtained by the rough average of the weekly prices of the three months of January, February, and March 1868) will give Rs. 1,06,00,00,000, or £106,000,000. Deducting 10 per cent. it will give £95,400,000, or say £96,000,000, for a population of 67,000,000. *Madras.*—The total value will be—1,427,403 garces at Rs. 188=Rs. 26,83,51,764. Total produce of wet and dry lands will be Rs. 36,52,05,264; adding 10 per cent. for South Canara and Malabar, the total for all the Madras Presidency will be a little above Rs, 40,00,00,000. From this is to be allowed 10 per cent. as a correction for errors of high averages, which will leave, say, £36,000,000 for a population of 26,539,052 (Parliamentary Return No. [C.184]) 1870, or say 26,500,000. *Bombay.*—the returns of Bombay are thus summarized:

Northern Division.

	Acres.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Bajri....	1018870	32150323		
Jowari...	808262	19788655		
Rice	672273	36016783		
			87955761—10%=	79160185
Cotton...	707041	.....		12264997
Total ...	3206446		Rs....	91425182

Average per acre.....Rs. 28·51.

Southern Division.

	Acres	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Bajri.....	2715715	59835748		
Jowari ...	4906070	73754269		
Rice	504013	22124406		
			155714423 —10%=	140142981
Cotton...	704629	.....		9167367
Total...	8830427		Rs	149310348

Average per acre .....Rs. 17.

Total Cultivated Area.

	Acres.		Rs.
Northern Division ..	5128221	at Rs. 28·15%=	146305580
Southern ,, ...	18985892	at ,, 17 =	237760164
		Total Rs.....	383965744

This gives for the whole of the Bombay Presidency the total value at Rs. 38,39,65,744, or say £40.000,000, for a population of 11,000,000.

Oudh.—The total cultivated area is 12,486 square miles or 7,991,040 acres. The total produce, at 900 lbs. of wheat per acre, will be 7,191,936,000 lbs.; and the total value, at the rate of Rs. 1-9 per maund of 80 lbs.; will be Rs. 14,04,67,500. This less 10 per cent.; will be Rs. 12,64,20,750, or say £13,000,000, for a population of 9,500,000.

The following is the summary of the above figures:

Provinces.	Value of the Produce of Cultivated Land. £	Population.	Produce per head. Rs.
Central Provinces	16000000	9000000	18
Punjab	36000000	17500000	21
North-West Provinces.	40000000	30000000	14
Bengal	96000000	67000000	15
Madras	36000000	26500000	14
Bombay	40000 00	11000000	36
Oudh	13000000	9500000	18
Total	277000000	170500000	

We cannot of course vouch for the correctness of the above figures. So far as Bengal is concerned we fear the yield of the land is considerably under-estimated. From the above total of £277,000,000, it is necessary, Mr. Dadhabhai says, to deduct for seed for next year, say, only 6 per cent., that is, allowing sixteen-fold for produce of land. The balance will be about £260,000,000 as the produce of cultivation, during a good season, for human use and consumption for a year. Mr. Dadhabhai Naoroji thus compares consumption with production:

Production per Head.			Three-fourths of Jail Cost of Living, or Cost per head outside Jail
Central Provinces...	Rs. 21¾ or say Rs.	22	Rs. 23
Punjab	,, 24¾ ,, ,,	25	,, 20
North-West Provinces.	,, 17¾ ,, ,,	18	,, 16
Madras	,, 17¾ ,, ,,	18	,, 41
Bengal.....	,, 18¾ ,, ,,	19	,, 23-12
Bombay	,, 39¾ ,, ,,	40	,, 35
Oudh	,, 17¾ ,, ,,	18	

The lecturer remarks:

"It will be seen, from a comparison of the above figures, that, even for such food and clothing as a criminal obtains, there is hardly enough of production even in a good season, leaving alone all little luxuries, all social and religious wants, all expenses of occasions of joy and sorrow, and any provision for bad season. It must, moreover, be borne in mind that every poor labourer does not get the full share of the average production. The high and middle classes get a much larger share, the poor classes much less, while the lowest cost of living is generally above the average share.

Such appears to be the condition of the masses of India. They do not get enough to provide the bare necessaries of life."

The exports of India for the years 1835 to 1872 being about £1,120,000,000, the imports, with an addition of 15 per cent to exports for profits (of about £168,000,000), should be about £1,288,000,000. Besides this, India has incurred to foreign parts a debt of about £50,000,000 for the public debt, and about £100,000,000 for railways, during the same period. Now on the other hand, in return for the exports, *plus* profits, of £1,288,000,000, and £150,000,000 of the loans, India has actually imported during the last 38 years, from 1835 to 1872 (not, as would be the case in a normal condition, £1,430,000,000, but only about £943,000,000, leaving a balance of about £500,000,000, which England has kept back as its benefit, chiefly arising from the political position it holds over India. This is without including any interest at all. Towards this drain, the net opium revenue contributed by China amounts to about £141,000,000. The balance of about £360,000,000,is derived from India's own produce and profits of commerce. The profits of commerce are,say about £168000,000. Allowing, then, the *whole opium revenue* and the *whole profit of commerce* as having gone towards the drain, there is still a deficiency of nearly £200,000,000, which must have gone out of the produce of the country. Deducting from this £200,000,000 the interest on railway loans remitted to England, the balance still sent from the very produce of the country is about £144,000,000. Strictly speaking, the whole £200,000,000 should be considered as a drain from the very produce of the country, because it is the exhaustion caused by the drain that disables us from building our railroads, &c., from our own means. If we did not suffer the exhaustion we do, and even then if we found it to our benefit to borrow from England, the case would be one of a healthy natural business, and the interest then remitted would have nothing to be deplored in it, as in the case of other countries, which being young, or with undeveloped resources, and without much means of their own, borrow from others, and increase their own wealth thereby, as Australia, Canada, the United States, or any other native-ruled country that so borrows. Mr. Dadhabhai thus concludes: "The United Kingdom pays a total revenue of about £2 10*s.* per head. India's whole production is hardly £2 a head; it pays a total revenue (less net opium) of hardly 5*s.* a head, and is unable to pay a shilling more. Why so? Short of only representation, India is governed on the same principles and system as the United Kingdom, and why such extraordinarily different results? Why should one prosper and the other perish, though similarly governed?" We have endeavoured to give an abstract of Mr. Dadhabhai's paper. The facts given in it are very important. We solicit Lord Lytton's attention to them.

A TEMPEST IN A TEA-POT.

A TEMPEST in a tea-pot has arisen in connection with a grant by the Road Cess Committee of 24-Pergunnahs for a road from South Baraset to Mahismari in the Sunderbuns. As usual there are two parties to the case, and both of them have forwarded to us copies of their petitions. The opposition-petitioners have it seems abandoned in their petition to the Lieutenant Governor the grounds, which they had urged in their petition to the Commissioner of the Presidency Division. These grounds have been most successfully refuted by the ryots of the Sunderbuns, who have prayed for the road. In their petition to the Lieutenant Governor the petitioners state that the proposed road would benefit only the proprietor of Mahismari, but immediately below they admit that "other adjoining lots" would also benefit. Now, we have referred to the map of the Sunderbuns, and we find that these lots would directly benefit by the road, viz., nos 34,35,36,37,38,39,40 (Mahismari), 41,42,43,44, and 48 and other *lots* would also indirectly benefit. We do not therefore see that the road would benefit a particular individual, as the petitioners seek to make out. In the next place the petitioners urge that the "ryots of Mahismari and neighbouring lots have no absolute necessity for such a road as is proposed." Here again it is admitted that the proprietor of Mahismari will not alone benefit—as to the necessity of the road we believe the parties interestsd are the best judges. But the kernel of the objections is contained in the following paragraph:

"That your memorialists are not unaware that the proposed road may serve to benefit the Mahismari and other adjoining Lots, inasmuch as it would enhance the value of the lands and attract the people to take lease in theseLots at higher rates, but they cannot understand why these benefits should be rendered to the proprietors of these Lots at the expense of the Cess-payers, while the proprietors themselves alone can and ought to bear the cost which will in the long run improve and enrich their lands."

To the above objections the ryots of the Sunderbuns give the following practical reply:

"Instead of avoiding the principal villages and *Hauts*, the line of the proposed road is so fixed as to run in close proximity to a great number of populous villages, and the two important Hauts viz. Gorer and Bantra Hauts which lie within its range, and finally to join the Culpee metalled road at Baraset on which stand the two principal rice Hauts of the District viz, the Mogra and Bostee Hauts. So that the proposed road will not only open out a large part of the Soonderbuns to a large number of the populous villages, but to the two important rice markets of the District.

It is not difficult to see that the petition protesting against the proposed road has been submitted more in the interest of certain zemindars in that part of the country, than of the petitioners themselves. At present the said zemindars let out the lands of their estates at the rate of Rs. 2 to Rs. 3-8 per biggah, while the much more fertile lands of the Soonderbun grants lying within 4 to 10 miles of their estates, are easily available to those ryots at the rate of Re. 1 to Rs. 1-4 per biggah) but owing to the scarcity of fresh water for drink and other necessaries of life, these ryots cannot settle upon those grants and cultivate the lands. But if a Road were constructed like the one proposed by the District Road Cess Committee, they could easily cultivate those lands as Pykust ryots, just as many do now, notwithstanding the difficulties in the present means of inter communication, and bring into cultivation about a lac of biggas of most fertile lands now lying waste for want of men to cultivate them. But what care the zemindars, whether the ryot class is benefitted and an addition made to the food supply of the district to the value of more than six lacs of rupees? They clearly perceive that these results, however desirable, are only attainable by a heavy loss to themselves, as they know well enough that as soon as the Soonderbun is made accessible t

their ryots by means of a road, they will relinquish the land now held by them at Rs. 2 to Rs. 3-8 per biggah, and takes much better lands in the Soonderbuns at Re. 1 to Rs 1-4 a biggah. It is not to be wondered at therefore that these zemindars will try all manner of means to prevent the construction of the road in question."

The reasoning of the Sunderbuns ryots seems to us to be conclusive. Why should not the cultivator go wherever he may find land cheap, and if the proposed road should contribute towards that result, it would be a boon to the people at large? From the papers before us it is clear that the proposed road is of great public importance, that it is not intended to benefit a particular individual but a large body of people according to the shewing of both parties, that it will connect important marts, and contribute to the reclamation and development of the Sunderbuns. When the proprietors and ryots of the Sunderbuns lots contribute to the Road Cess fund, surely they have as much right to a share of the fund as the other cess-payers.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

HIS HONOR the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal left for the Hills on Wednesday last. His Honor will first pay a visit to Nepal, and on return inspect the distressed districts in Behar. Perhaps His Honor will not descend to the plains till November next. All the higher functionaries of the State having left the capital, Calcutta is left in charge of the Commissioner of Police.

THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL closed its Session on Monday last, and we believe it will be allowed to enjoy a recess of six months. His Honor however gave a sketch of the business for the next session; two most important measures were announced, viz., the consolidation of the Land Revenue Acts and the amendment of the Rent law with regard to the determination of rates of rent. The last Session of the Bengal Council was perhaps the most active and eventful in the history of Bengal legislation.

WE ARE sorry to observe that the Royal Titles Bill has been productive of a somewhat bitter feeling in England. Reuter telegraphs:

London, 27th April.—"In the House of Commons, this evening Mr. Disraeli refused to delay advising Her Majesty to proclaim the title of Empress. An adjournment of the House was then moved, and a stormy debate ensued, in which Mr. Fawcett took the lead, party recriminations being freely indulged in. The Marquis of Hartington declined to assist Mr. Fawcett's motion, in consequence of the uselessness of doing so. Her Majesty the Queen has given her assent to the Royal Titles Bill."

Public meetings are being held to protest against the new Title. How sadly does the attitude of the English public on this subject falsify Shakespear's saying—what's in a name?

QUEEN VICTORIA has assumed the title of *Indiæ Imperatrix* or *Empress of India*. Reuter thus telegraphs the auspicious event:

London, April 23.—The proclamation declaring the Queen to be Empress of India was issued to-day. After recital, the proclamation declares that henceforth, so far as may be convenient on all occasions and instruments wherein the style and titles of Her Majesty are used, excepting charters, commission, letters patent, grants, writs of appointment, and similar instruments not operating beyond the United Kingdom, the following addition to the style and titles pertaining to the Imperial Crown of the United Kingdom, and its dependencies shall henceforth be made in the Latin tongue *Indiæ Imperatrix*, in English *Empress of India*. The proclamation further states that all coinage shall continue to be lawful without the additional title until the Queen's pleasure is further declared.

Long live the Empress of India!

THE DEATH of the late Maharajah Mahender Sing of Patiala has once more raised the question how the administration of that State is to be conducted. The Council of Regency appointed during the late Maharaja's minority and which was presided over by a British officer had proved a failure. And it is a well-known fact that Councils of Regency similarly constituted have also failed in certain other Native States within recent times. Some of our contemporaries have already expressed themselves very strongly and decidedly in favor of the establishment of a purely Native administration in Patiala; and speaking for ourselves, we feel little hesitation in saying that this is the best course which could be *adopted*.

WE CAN hardly credit the statement that Sir Richard Temple has called upon a certain junior Civilian now on leave in England as to whether he is the author of the *Black Pamphlet* on the Famine. Such a course would be so undignified and so opposed to the traditions of English public life that we cannot believe that Sir Richard has committed such a mistake. Major Malleson was the author of the Red Pamphlet on the Mutiny, but Lord Canning took no notice of it.

THE LAST Famine brought to view some of the most commendable features in the character of some of the zemindars which had hitherto escaped public notice. One of these zemindars was Raja Hurrobullubnarain Sing of Sonbursa in the Bhaugulpore district. This zemindar with a rent-roll of Rs. 98,412 gave a donation of Rs. 10,000 to the general relief fund, remitted rent to the extent of Rs. 9700, advanced 4000 maunds of grain, besides Rs. 9500 advanced in money, rice and paddy. He suspended the collection of rent to the amount of Rs. 65,300, and gave 3000 biggahs of indigo land to the ryots for the cultivation of food crops. In addition to all these he expended nearly Rs. 3000 on the contruction of golahs at Sunbursah and Kanp for storing Government grain. Further, he made a free gift of all lands taken up in his estates for relief roads. He entertained a large establishment consisting of a relief officer, four superintendents, and overseers, and others for attending to relief works superintending the distribution of grain and other acts of charity as well as to the works of public utility undertaken by him for the purpose of affording relief and occupation to the distressed poor.

WE CONSIDER it our duty to give the same publicity to the following contradiction, retractation and apology of the *Englishman* regarding the alleged interference of Mr. Justice Louis Jackson with the appointment of Judicial Commissioner of Assam that we gave last week to its original statements and remarks:

"We published on Friday last an article, in which we stated that we had been informed that, in setting aside the nomination of Mr. Geddes for the Judicial Commissionership of Assam in favour of Mr. W. Ward, the Government of India had been influenced by the interference of Mr. Justice Louis Jackson, who had taken upon himself to press the superior claims of Mr. Ward on Lord Northbrook, without any communication with the Chief Justices, or the other Judges of the Court; and we further expressed our opinion that, unless Mr. Louis Jackson had substantial grounds of objection to the Lieutenant-Governor's nominee, we considered his interference in the matter unseemly and unconstitutional. The information on which we made the statement in question was so categorical, and we had so complete and reasonably grounded a confidence in the trustworthiness of our informant, that not a shadow of doubt suggested, or, in the absence of contradictory evidence, was likely to suggest, itself of the accuracy of the facts as furnished to us.

We have, however, since ascertained, on the best authority, that our informant had been misled, and that Mr. Louis Jackson had no voice whatever in the appointment of Mr. Ward, and made no such representation on the subject as that imputed to him. We therefore unreservedly, and as a matter of duty to ourselves and the public, as well as to Mr. Justice Jackson, withdraw the statement in question, together with the imputation of blame which we based upon it; and express our great regret to Mr. Jackson that any misconception should have led us to make the one or the other."

As we consider our contemporary of the *Englishman* generally well-informed in matters of facts, we based some comments of our own upon his statements and remarks. It now appears that our contemporary was wholly misinformed on the subject, and we therefore regret that we were unconsciously led to make comments upon Mr. Justice Jackson, which were not justified by the facts of the case, and which would never have been made, did we know that the facts were "absolutely untrue."

FOLLOWING the example of the Ooterpara Hitakari Sabha the Lieutenant Governor has sanctioned a system of scholarships for girls in the divisions of the Presidency, Burdwan and Hooghly. In the districts which comprise these divisions Mr. Woodrow proposes to have scholarship examinations for girls held in three grades —primary, intermediate, and vernacular. He would make the standards nearly the same as in the corresponding scholarships for boys, substituting needle-work, embroidery, and knitting for higher arithmetic and science. In sanctioning these proposals the Lieutenant Governor says that "he would leave it in a great measure to the discretion of the local committees to encourage female education in this or in any other way which the circumstances of the district may indicate as most suitable. It appears to be the practice in some districts to give gurus of primary schools a bonus of one rupee per month, for every five girls who attend the patshala, or in some cases to give pecuniary rewards to the girls themselves for regular attendance. The district committee would probably be better qualified than the Government to determine whether these methods of encouraging female education are more practically useful than the establishment of a certain number of primary scholarships for girls would be; and the Lieutenant-Governor would desire to leave to the committee the decision of this question. But it must be understood that in all districts of the three divisions referred to, and as far as possible in all districts throughout the Lower Provinces, the Government will expect that some substantial portion either of the Government grant-in-aid or of the scholarship assignment, or of both these funds, shall be devoted to the promotion of female education."

WHILE WE admire the benevolent intentions of the Lieutenant Governor in projecting an Asylum in Calcutta for natives afflicted with incurable diseases, we candidly confess that we cannot agree with His Honor as to the desirability of adding it to the Sealdah Medical School, seeing that the resources at his command are so limited. His Honor says:

"From enquiry in the Public Works Department, I understand that a structure for the Asylum, fully, capable of holding all the inmates for whom accommodation might be desirable (estimated at one hundred and fifty souls, Natives), would cost at least one lakh and a half of rupees; but such a structure might be built in compartments; if funds should not at the beginning admit of the whole being constructed, a part at least might be finished for the reception of a limited number of inmates, and the completion of the whole might follow afterwards, according as resources might become available. Under present circumstances, however, I am not sure that funds can be raised; the limited subscriptions heretofore promised would not be sufficient for so large a purpose; and certainly the Local Government is not able to make a grant of anything like this amount. If, in the future, funds shall become available, the project may be resuscitated.

Meanwhile, adjoining the hospital enclosure, there is a building which, together with its out-offices and grounds, may be purchased for comparatively a small sum, and which, with some additions and improvements, may be made to accommodate about forty poor persons (Natives). The subscriptions already promised may go some way towards defraying the cost of this arrangement, which should not exceed Rs. 25,000 in all. In that case the Government would contribute a share, provided that the grant thus required should not exceed Rs. 13,000. The medical supervision would be obtained from the existing staff of the Sealdah Hospital. The dieting and other contingencies would amount to a small sum monthly, of which half would be defrayed by Government, provided that the other half were met from private subscriptions. In this manner a humble, though useful, beginning might be made for an institution that is much needed in Calcutta."

The whole of the above statement goes against His Honor's proposal. The subscriptions are not likely to be large—we do not know whether even Rs. 10,000 has been yet subscribed notwithstanding Dr. Woodford's energetic efforts for the last three months—and monthly subscriptions will be still more precarious. We still stick to our own idea of making the institution a part of the District Charitable Society. That body has a Leper Asylum, and if two wings were added to this building, which would not cost perhaps more than Rs. 15,000 in the aggregate, and a monthly grant given by Government as promised, the object would be attained and there would be also a sure prospect of permanency for the institution. The District Charitable Society has a Doctor, who will attend upon the patients, who however require nursing more than medication. We hope the Lieutenant Governor will yet reconsider his orders.

WE HAVE much pleasure in reproducing the following Resolution of the Lieutenant Governor regarding the establishment of an Industrial School at Hastings:

RESOLUTION.—In reference to the Lieutenant-Governor's Minute of the 2nd April 1875, regarding Technical and Industrial Schools for the Natives of Bengal, the formation of an Industrial School or Workshop for the practical instruction of the passed students of the Civil Engineering Classes of the Presidency College has from time to time been under the consideration of Government, but the expense attending the foundation of a separate institution for this purpose, and the difficulties in organizing it, has delayed the introduction of the scheme.

2. Minor Workshops have had to be formed in some of the Public Works Divisions of Calcutta for constructing iron-work for some of the large buildings and works lately erected at the Presidency, and some machinery has been bought from time to time for the requirements of these Divisional Workshops. It has been considered desirable to concentrate

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these Workshops and place them in one yard at Hastings, and advantage has been taken of this to organize an Industrial School for the practical instruction of the passed students of the Civil Engineering Classes of the Presidency College

3. The additional machinery required for such an institution has been purchased, the sheds are being erected, and the machinery is being set up.

4. The school is primarily one for the instruction of the passed students of the College, but other native students will be allowed to enter the institution to receive practical instruction in carpentry and iron-work under skilled workmen. The rules and conditions under which such individuals will be allowed to enter the institution will be drawn up in this Department and notified in the *Calcutta Gazette* when the buildings are sufficiently advanced for the reception of apprentices.

This institution, if it be judiciously conducted, is likely to lead to much good. We would exhort our youths to resort to it.

THE GOVERNMENT of Assam has issued new rules for the sale of leases of lands in Assam giving a permanent, heritable, and transferable right of use and occupancy in the land leased. The assessment of land for the first three years will be as follows:

(*a*.) The land will remain revenue-free for the first two years.

(*b*.) For the four next years, the revenue will be three annas per acre per annum.

(*c*.) For the four next years, the revenue will be six annas per acre per annum.

(*d*.) For the next ten years, the revenue will be eight annas per acre per annum.

(*e*.) For the ten next years, the revenue will be Re. 1 per acre per annum.

(*f*.) After the expiration of thirty years, the land will be assessed under the law for the time being in force in the district in which the land is situated, but no portion of it will at any time be assessed at a rate higher than is then payable in that district on lands cultivated with rice, pulses, or other ordinary agricultural produce.

The provisions of Act XXIII. of 1863 apply to the lease as well as to the sale of waste lands. The Government of India has directed the Chief Commissioner to put the Act in force in the case of the lease of waste lands under these orders. The sale of the lease must, therefore, be advertised, and, in order that the transaction shall be a sale, and not a gift, it is necessary to fix a price. The Chief Commissioner directs that, until further orders, the price shall be Re. 1 per acre.

NOTHING could be more satisfactory than the first elections made for the Krishnaghur Municipality. We give the names of the elected Commissioners below:

For Division No. I of the Town.

1. Baboo Umesh Chundra Dutta.
2. ,, Nava Krishna Gangooly.

For Division No. II.

1. Baboo Prosono Coomar Bose, M. A., B. L.
2. ,, Jodu Nath Chatterjee, B. A., B. L.
3. ,, Chunder Nath Ghose.

For Division No. III.

1. Baboo Mritunjoy Roy.
2. ,, Utul Behary Moitra, B. A.
3. ,, Hari Mohun Moitra.

For Division No. IV.

1. Baboo Dwarka Nath Sirkar.
2. ,, Poresh Nath Sukul.
3. ,, Bhodra Nath Sukul, B. A., B. L.

For Division No. V.

1. Rai Jodu Nath Roy, Bahadoor.
2. Baboo Prosono Chundra Roy.

For Division No. VI.

1. Baboo Sharoda Proshad Chowdry.
2. ,, Bidhu Bhushun Roy.

We hope the electors in other municipalities will exercise the franchise in the same liberal and judicious manner.

THE INAUGURATION of the Albert Hall on Wednesday last by His Honor the Lieutenant Governor was a most interesting ceremony. All classes of the Native community were represented on the occasion. Babu Keshubchunder Sen, the projector, asked the Lieutenant Governor to declare the Hall open, and in performing that ceremony His Honor delivered a most excellent speech. Though couched in a conversational style, it was eminently sensible, practical, and liberal. We are sorry we cannot make room for the speech, but we will give a few extracts. Referring to the situation of the building, His Honor said:

"Well, in congratulating you on the opening of this Hall, I may remind you of the remarkable convenience and suitableness of the locality. It is close to the Presidency College, the Sanskrit College, the Medical College, and the Hare School, and it is close also to College Square, which, I think, may be called the Educational quarter of Calcutta, and which, I venture to think, is the most beautiful and interesting spot in the whole city. I am sure, before long, College Square will have the same classic associations with the Natives that Cambridge and Oxford have among Englishmen (hear, hear); and therefore, I think we could not have a more suitable locality for the Albert Hall (applause). Here will resort the students and *alumni* of the different Colleges for the enjoyment of such slender leisure and limited recreation as their studies will permit. But, what is even more important, when these young men have left College and entered a public career, they will, I hope, still feel a craving for literary food such as an institution of this sort is able to supply."

His Honor made some sensible remarks upon newspaper reading:

"With regard to newspaper reading, I would suggest that you should get illustrated newspapers. You have all seen the *Illustrated London News*, for the past two or three months, giving us illustrations of what has happened in our midst—a garden party which I gave a short time ago, and the triumphal arches erected by my friend, Sir Stuart Hogg, on the occasion of the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. Newspapers such as these will give you a better idea of what is taking place all over the world, than any newspaper without illustrations can give. Then again you have not only the *Illustrated London News*, but the *Graphic* also—a paper equally as good—and you have the immortal *Punch*. Let me commend *Punch* to your attention; for not only is there a deal of wit and humour in it, but beneath the surface of the cartoon lies the state of the feeling of the English nation. Then, there are such things as the *Art Journal*, and similar publications which you would do well to read; and these are the papers I would recommend to you."

His Honor thus concluded:

"I will now only say that I sincerely desire the welfare and progress of the people (applause) and on behalf of my English fellow-countrymen in Bengal, I may say that we are anxious, without reservation, to communicate to you all the knowledge we possess which has enabled us to win our present place among nations. Whatever be the secret of our success, we are desirous of imparting it to you and right willingly will we do so (applause). There is another thing I wish to impress on you—that is that we ourselves are learners. The progress of science is such that we are compelled to learn every day, and, while we can only impart to you what we ourselves learn, it is necessary for you to advance further and further. So rapid has been the progress of pace with modern science, that it is extremely difficult to keep abreast of the improvements which take place every day. You, therefore, require to put your shoulders to the wheel, and keep improvements, and you shall have to use the knowledge imparted to you as a fulcrum, or rather, as a lever, wherewith to conquer fresh worlds in knowledge and science. I cannot too strongly impress these facts on your minds, and I hope that, when this Institution is completed, you will sit at the feet of learned lecturers and men of science, and thus, one way and another, realise fully the objects with which this Institution was started (applause)."

His Honor deserves the warmest thanks of the Committee of the Institution for this earnest expression of sympathy.

BEFORE QUITTING these shores Lord Napier of Magdala addressed a farewell address to the Army, from which we extract the following:

"The new forms of attack; the course of musketry, particularly when the native officers have been taught to aid in the training of the men; the system to schools in which every man will learn to read and write his vernacular, and enough of English to enable him to communicate with his European comrades on outpost duties: these, together with the high standard of instruction of the young officers, are exercising a great and valuable influence in developing the intelligence and character of the native officers and men.

To the officers of the native army where they do not already follow the course advised, I would urge that they should lose no opportunity of studying the characters of their men, that they should carefully instruct their native officers, and by associating them in all general plans of regimental administration, by treating them with kindness and confidence, they should make them feel that their place is on the side of authority. The native officers and soldiers will never shrink from the strictest discipline provided their *amour propre* is respected."

Lord Napier did much to elevate the tone of the Native Army, and his name will be cherished with affection.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS.	Rs.	As.	P
J. Dacosta Esq., London	18	2	0
H. V. Purves Esq., Civil Surgeon, Darjeeling	2	8	0
Raja Sukharam Rao Shaheb Bahadoor, Tanjore	13	4	0
Baboo Shumbhoo Chunder Nag, M. A., Moonsiff of Serajgunge	13	4	0
,, Netto Gopal Mullick, Furreedpore	11	14	6
,, Doorgadas Das, Chittagong	13	4	4
,, Ram Taron Roy, Keshobgunge	5	0	0
,, Kanti Chunder Mookerjee, Barrackpore	13	4	0
,, Shama Churn Moitro, Monghyr	1	0	0
,, Nobo Krishna Chatterjee, Oonao	6	4	0
,, Kalla Chand Bose, Patna	26	8	0

Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette.—*April* 26, 1876.

GENERAL.—*The 4th April* 1876.—Mr. Alexander Manson, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Tipperah, is appointed to act until further orders as Magistrate and Collector of Pooree, *vice* Mr. F. G. Millett.

The 12th April 1876.—Dr. D. B. Smith is appointed to be a member of the Committee for the temporary management of the Royal Zoological Garden at Alipore.

The 17th April 1876.—Baboo Mohesh Chunder Sen, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Furreedpore, is transferred to Bogra.

The 18th April 1876.—Mr. Anthony Benn Falcon, C. S., is allowed leave for one year, under Section 11 (*a*) of the Civil Leave Code.

The 19th April 1876.—Mr. H. L. Oliphant, Deputy Commissioner, Lohardugga, is appointed to act as Commissioner of the Chota Nagpore division, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. W. LeF. Robinson, or until further orders.

Mr. J. Ware Edgar, Deputy Commissioner, Darjeeling, is appointed to act until further orders in the Second Grade of Deputy Commissioners.

Mr. J. J. Livesay, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Purneah, is appointed to act as Deputy Commissioner of Lohardugga in the Third Grade during the absence, on duty, of Mr. H. L. Oliphant, or until further orders.

Mr. Charles Deslandes Church Winter, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, in charge of the city Moorshedabad division of the Moorshedabad district, is posted to the Sudder Station of Jessore.

Baboo Romesh Chunder Mookerjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Hooghly, is appointed to have charge of the city Moorshedabad division of the Moorshedabad district.

Mr. J. E. B. Jeffery, C. S., reported his departure from India on furlough on the 1st instant.

The 20th April 1876.—Moulvi Mujeed Bukht Mozoomdar, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Rajshahye, is allowed leave of absence for six months, under Section 9, Supplement F of the Civil Leave Code.

The 21st April 1876.—Mr. Frederick George Millett, C. S., is allowed leave for twelve months on medical certificate, under Section 11 (*a*) of the Civil Leave Code, together with subsidiary leave for a period not exceeding thirty days, with effect from the 7th instant.

The following officers are appointed to act as Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors of the First Grade, viz.—

Mr. Romesh Chunder Dutt, } *vice* Messrs. J. J. Livesay, W. H. Gordon, and A. Manson.
,, Francis Frederick Handley, }
,, Alfred Hinuber Haggard, }

The following officers are appointed to act as Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors of the Second Grade, viz.—

Mr. John Nugent.
,, Charles Randal Marindin.
,, Krishna Gobind Gupta.

Baboo Bunkim Chunder Chatterjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Hooghly, is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act VII (B.C.) of 1868.

Mr. Edward Thomas Smith Johnson, Deputy Superintendent of Revenue Survey, is vested with the powers of a Deputy Collector under Regulation IX of 1833 in the Gya and Patna districts.

Mr. E. deDombal, Head Assistant, Financial Department, Bengal Secretariat, is allowed leave of absence for 13 days from 24th April to 6th May 1876, under Section 21, Chapter VI of the Civil Leave Code.

Mr. E. Stapleton is appointed to act as Head Assistant of the Financial Department of the Bengal Secretariat during the absence, on leave, of Mr. E. deDombal, or until further orders.

Baboo Bunkim Chunder Chatterjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Hooghly, is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act X of 1870 for the purpose of acquiring lands required for public purposes.

The 22nd April 1876.—Mr. Colman Patrick Lowis Macaulay, is appointed to act as Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal during the absence on leave, of Mr. J. Crawfurd, or until further orders.

The 24th April 1876.—Mr. A. W. Cochran, C. S., reported his departure from India on furlough on the 11 instant.

Mr. H. L. Dampier, C. S., reported his departure from India on furlough on the 11th instant.

Mr. T. B. Lane, Secretary to the Board of Revenue, is allowed subsidiary leave for one day, viz. the 21st October 1875, on return from furlough, under Section 18 (*b*) of the Civil Leave Code.

The 25th April 1876.—Baboo Bunkim Chunder Chatterjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, having joined his appointment in the district of Hooghly on the 20th ultimo, the unexpired portion of the leave granted to him under orders of the 11th January last, is cancelled.

Baboo Bhugwan Chunder Bose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, in charge of the Brahmunberriah Division of the Tipperah District, is transferred to the district of Furreedpore.

Baboo Bhoobun Mohun Raha, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Furreedpore is appointed to have charge of the Brahmunberriah Division of the Tipperah district.

Advertisements.

THWAYTES' MEMORIAL.

At a public meeting presided over by Sir W. J. Herschel, the students, friends and admirers of the late Mr. Thwaytes resolved to found, in the Hooghly College, a scholarship, to be called "the Thwaytes scholarship" for the purpose of perpetuating the name of the deceased Principal. The amount subscribed up to date is 1172 Rupees.

Any contributions in aid of this memorial will be thankfully received by—

Dwarka Nath Chuckerbutty
Jadub Chunder Bose
Eshan Chunder Mittra
Joint Honorary Secretaries.

Hooghly the 26th April, 1876.